

ON (R) — English captain Will Carling, friendship with Diana has grabbed per headlines, and he have decided to time apart. A unit for the couple. The 29-year-old Carling and his new wife Julia said the separation is temporary and no party was involved. Carling announced the separation on Friday. The rugby union's liaison officer, both believe that the separation came less than a week after a Sunday paper reported a meeting between the star and the ed wife of Prince s. The News of the published pictures of the couple. The separation came less than a week after a Sunday paper reported a meeting between the star and the ed wife of Prince s. The News of the published pictures of the couple. The separation came less than a week after a Sunday paper reported a meeting between the star and the ed wife of Prince s. The News of the published pictures of the couple.

emura laughs
J.K. magazine
award

O (R) — Japanese Minister Toshiki Takekoshi, who was awarded the "most valuable" award of the year, said that he and his wife were not yet and has dismissed rumours about their relationship. He said his new wife is planned to be the sports director of a ship problem.

MP calls for
quarantine for
gays

ARE (R) — A member of Zimbabwe's ruling ZUPU party took up Robert Mugabe's gay line on saying that homosexuals should be "quarantined" and "treated." Member of parliament Andrew Ncube said during a session on a motion backing Mugabe's stance, her MP said anti-gay laws should be taught in schools.

Ekeus meets Aziz and Rasheed

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Rolf Ekeus, the United Nations official overseeing the elimination of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction, met Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tareq Aziz on Saturday. The radio said Iraqi Oil Minister Lieutenant General Amir Rasheed also attended the talks. There were no immediate details about the meeting. Mr. Ekeus arrived in Iraq on Friday to review progress in dismantling and accounting for Iraqi programmes to build weapons of mass destruction, a key condition for removing U.N. sanctions imposed after its 1990 invasion of Kuwait. He is due shortly to present his regular six-monthly report to the U.N. Security Council. Mr. Ekeus is due to leave Baghdad on Sunday. It was the second time in as many days that the Swedish disarmament expert met with Gen. Rasheed. The Iraqi media gave no details of Saturday's meeting, but noted without elaboration that Mr. Ekeus said after he met Gen. Rasheed Friday that he was "happy with the outcome of the talks."

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His Majesty King Hussein meets with U.S. President Bill Clinton at the White House on Friday (Reuters photo)

King meets Mubarak, says relations are as good as they could be

HM leaves U.S. on private visit to Britain after talks with Clinton on MENA summit, Jordan-U.S. ties and military cooperation

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Saturday met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak in Washington and said afterwards that Jordanian-Egyptian relations were as good as they could be. It was the first such meeting between the two leaders after a coolness crept to Amman-Cairo ties following Egyptian criticism of Jordan after the Kingdom's decision to grant asylum to Iraqi defector Hussein Kamel in August and scathing Egyptian media attacks on Jordan. The Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported that the King and President Mubarak, both of whom were in Washington to attend Thursday's signing of the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement on expanding autonomy, discussed Jordanian-Egyptian relations, developments in the Middle East peace process

and the Israel-PLO accord. It quoted the King as telling the press after the meeting that he and Mr. Mubarak discussed all topics, including Iraq, and that Jordanian-Egyptian relations were as good as they could be. The King was expected to have discussed Jordan's stand vis-a-vis the situation in Iraq and the Kingdom's stand that while it is anxious to see an end to the suffering of the Iraqi people under crippling international sanctions it also remained firm that any change within the Iraqi political system should be brought about by the Iraqi people themselves. The King, who ended the visit to the U.S. after the meeting with Mr. Mubarak and flew to the United Kingdom on a private visit, described the Israel-PLO accord as a major achievement towards helping the Palestinians regain control over their national soil and enhancing the peace process.

The Monarch expressed hope that Jerusalem, the status of which is one of the thorniest issues to be resolved in Palestinian-Israeli negotiations coming up next year, would be a meeting place for the two sides and a symbol of peace between them. The holy places in Jerusalem, the King said, should not be totally under the sovereignty of any party but of God. On Friday, the King held talks with President Bill Clinton and paid tribute to his efforts that helped Israel and the Palestinians reach the autonomy accord. Speaking at a meeting with the U.S. president attended by officials from both sides, King Hussein underlined the importance of achieving comprehensive peace in the Middle East, adding that efforts should be pursued at all levels towards a final settle-

(Continued on page 7)



A Palestinian family camped in a desert no-man's land between Libya and Egypt, after they were expelled by the Libyan government (AFP photo)

280 expelled Palestinians stuck at Salloum crossing

SALLOUM, Egypt (Agencies) — More than 280 Palestinians arrived in no-man's land between Egypt and Libya on Saturday, the first of 1,500 expected to be expelled by Tripoli within the coming days, security officials said here. Another 300 Palestinians were expected aboard six buses coming from Tobruk, Libya, 120 kilometres from the border, the officials added. Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi has ordered the expulsion of all 30,000 Palestinians in his country in an attempt to show up the "failure" of Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accords to create a valid Palestinian homeland. Between 5,000 and 10,000

Officials at Egypt's Salloum border post said that the expelled Palestinians entered the international zone (between the borders) without papers and many had no personal belongings. "We expect a total of 1,500 to arrive in the next four or five days," said an official. Libya has set up 170 tents to house the Palestinians in the no-man's land, where 38 others have been stranded for more than a month after Egypt refused them entry because their papers were not in order. However, dozens of other expelled Palestinians holding valid documents crossed the border into Egypt on Saturday.

Palestinians have already left since Col. Qadhafi announced in a speech on Sept. 1 that he wanted them out. The last batch of deported Palestinians, many without identity cards or travel documents, arrived in four buses flying Palestinian flags at Salloum. They told Reuters they expected more Palestinians to join them in the next few days in the scorpion-infested patch of desert, hemmed in by barbed wire between the two Arab states. A United Nations official in Cairo called on Libya to halt the expulsions. "We are appealing to the

(Continued on page 7)

Regent reviews negotiations on EU partnership

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Saturday urged a Jordanian technical team negotiating a partnership agreement with the European Union (EU) to speed up the talks and reach an agreement which would open up great opportunities for the Kingdom's development. Addressing the team members at a meeting held at the Royal Court, Prince Hassan suggested that the team set up three different committees to deal with political and security matters, financial and economic matters and cultural and humanitarian issues.

The Regent listened to a briefing on the stages so far covered in the talks with the EU and the nature of topics on the agenda in the next round of talks, which will take place in Brussels in October. Stressing the need for strong focus on these topics, the Regent said that the agreement on partnership with the EU would have im-

mense benefits for Jordan's economy. It was Prince Hassan who initiated the talks with the EU on the partnership during a recent visit to Brussels where he held talks with EU officials who welcomed the partnership with Jordan expressing readiness to discuss future relations with the Kingdom. Present at the Royal Court meeting was Acting Prime Minister Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh as well as the Regent's advisor, Mohammad Saqqaf.

Meeting with British team

Also on Saturday, the Regent received at the Royal Court a team representing the British College for Strategic Studies and briefed them on Jordan's views with regard to the situation in the Middle East and relations among its countries, stressing the importance of stability and security to encourage economic cooperation. In replying to questions the



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Saturday meets with Jordanian negotiators with the European Union on a partnership agreement (photo by Boghos)

Regent presented Jordan's views with regard to the status of Jerusalem, the issue of Palestinian refugees and also the conflict in Bosnia. He also talked about Jordan's preparations for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit scheduled to be held at the end of the month and the importance of the event for the whole region.

Inter-faith dialogue

The Regent also chaired a meeting of the members of board of trustees of the Royal Institute for Inter-Faith Studies and reviewed with them topics on the board's agenda. The agenda mainly included the institute's plan of action and publications. The Regent said the institute's specialised committees should maintain contact with

similar institutes in other countries and urged the board members to Arabise Arab historic documents which had been translated into Latin. The institute, which was set up last year, aims at deepening dialogue with other religions and at encouraging understanding and religious tolerance among the followers of the monotheistic faiths.

Israel-Syria gaps still wide - Rabin

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin, in an interview two days after signing a West Bank accord, said on Saturday "the gaps are still wide" between Israel and Syria despite efforts to broaden Middle East peace. "We appreciate the efforts by the president, by the secretary of state, by the peace team," Mr. Rabin said on CNN's "Evans and Novak" programme. "But the gaps are still wide between them and us." Mr. Rabin also said he hoped Jonathan Pollard, an American convicted of spying for Israel, would be released and allowed to go to Israel. Asked if the West Bank accord signed on Thursday would prompt progress in negotiations between Israel and Syria, Mr. Rabin replied: "It's not exactly said." For one thing, he said, the two sides do not meet directly. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was slated to meet Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa on Monday in Washington. Israeli-Syrian negotiations have been stalled for three months. President Bill Clinton, in separate sessions, met Egyp-

tian President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein in hopes of finding ways to bring Syria back into the peace process. Syria wants Israel to withdraw from the Golan Heights, which it seized in the 1967 war. Israel wants Syria to full normal ties before it reveals the scope of any withdrawal. "They (Syria) believe the United States will deliver Israel," Mr. Rabin said. "They don't understand that the United States' basic position is the parties to conflict must be the parties to peace. We don't need guarantees. We need mutual commitment between Israel and every partner for peace with us to be responsible for that by ourselves." The White House said on Friday that Mr. Clinton had turned down a request from Mr. Rabin for clemency to Pollard, who has served 10 years of a life sentence. Mr. Rabin said he raised the Pollard issue "because he's reaching the 10 years in prison in November. He's subject to a parole and I hope that this case will be taken with the hope of releasing him, letting him go to Israel."

Israel to quit army bases in 12 towns in eight days

Settlers rampage through Hebron

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — The Israeli military administration will begin to move out of its offices in 12 Palestinian West Bank villages in eight days, Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said Saturday. The move represents "the first tangible sign" of the accord signed in Washington on Thursday between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) to expand Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank. Mr. Peres told Israel Radio while in New York. The gradual withdrawal of the Israeli army from seven West Bank towns as called for in the accord will begin in November with a pullout from Jenin in the north, Mr. Peres said. Israeli forces will maintain overall security in the West Bank and the "fight against terrorism" except in these towns, where Palestinian police will be responsible, Mr. Peres said. The seven towns represent only 2.7 per cent of the entire

land area of the West Bank, said Mr. Peres, who is in New York for the United Nations General Assembly meeting. Mr. Peres said the Israeli military redeployment will only apply to 27.5 per cent of the West Bank. Under the deal, the withdrawal is to start by Feb. 11 and wind up on March 30, clearing the way for Palestinian elections to a self-rule council. Unlike the six other West Bank towns, from which the army is to withdraw in full, Israeli troops are to make only a partial pullback from Hebron to "protect" the 400 settlers who live among 120,000 Palestinians. Several hundred Jewish settlers rampaged through the heart of Hebron on Saturday, injuring two American women, filming them and smashing windows of Palestinian cars and homes, witnesses said. Chanting "this is Israeli land — our homeland," the settlers marched on the Sabbath from the Ibrahim Mos-

que to their heavily-guarded Beit Hadassah stronghold in the flashpoint West Bank city. Along the way they smashed the windows of 13 cars and five houses belonging to Palestinians, and roughed up two women from the American Christian Peacemakers group who filmed the procession, the witnesses said. The women, whose names were not immediately available, were in Hebron to write a book about Arab-Israeli tensions in the city, Palestinian sources said. Israeli police intervened to stop the violence and arrested two settlers, the witnesses said. Settlers are forming a volunteer militia to patrol the streets of the West Bank when the Israeli army pulls out. The Palestinian mayor of Hebron has warned that could lead to more violence. Hundreds of volunteers have signed up for the militia.

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Prosecutor probes Al Hayat report on alleged media links

By Natasha Bukhari
Special to the Jordan Times
AMMAN — Prosecutor General Jamal Zoubi on Saturday launched an investigation to ascertain the Jordan-based Al Hayat daily had violated the law in a report last week that the government was investigating into allegations that 42 officials and journalists were on the payroll of the Iraqi regime. Mr. Zoubi's investigation involves hearing testimonies from the head of the Jordan Press Association (JPA), Suleiman Qudah, columnist Tareq Masarweh and the Al Hayat correspondent, Salameh Ne'matt. The Sept. 20 article, which elicited strong criticism from journalists and columnists, quoted official sources as saying that Jordanian authorities have opened an investigation into an "Iraqi trade and media campaign" in Jordan to "create a Jordanian movement to counter Jordan's support for a change in the Iraqi regime ..."

According to the article, the list of those on the payroll of the Iraqi regime included journalists, columnists, former senior officials and a current minister. Mr. Masarweh, a leading columnist in the mass circulation daily Al Ra'i, was the first to react to the article: "We will go to court to find out who these 'informed sources' and 'official sources' who have relayed to Al Hayat the 'government concern' over the Iraqi campaign," he wrote one day after the article was published. According to the Al Hayat report, "Iraqi institutions are trying to recruit Jordanian journalists and writers and working on winning over all forces that support the Iraqi regime by giving money or gifts or paying direct salaries." The report came after the Aug. 8 defection to Jordan of senior Iraqi official Hussein Kamel, who called for overthrowing the Iraqi regime, and more importantly, Jordan's call for a change in Iraq.

In his report, Mr. Ne'matt said that the Iraqi regime had intensified its efforts to recruit supporters in Jordan after the defection of General Kamel. Mr. Ne'matt's lawyer, Aymen Abu Sharkh, said his client would be charged with "overlooking accuracy, honesty and objectivity in commenting on events or news as well as harming national unity, inciting crime and planting the seeds of hatred and division among members of the society," in accordance with the Press and Publications Law. Mr. Ne'matt said that he is prepared to go to court to defend his article. "I am prepared to present documentation that support the information," he said, adding that he will "also take to court those attacked me in the local press instead of opening their own investigations to verify the contents of the article." Mr. Ne'matt said he also believes that the case "might easily turn into a political

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. envoy sees snags in Bosnia

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — U.S. mediator Richard Holbrooke, resuming his Balkan shuttle diplomacy to try to end the 41-month Bosnian war, said on Saturday he was daunted by the thicket of problems facing him. "We're very daunted by the issues that lie ahead," Mr. Holbrooke told reporters in Sarajevo after talks with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic. "The fundamental issues of this war — Sarajevo, Gorazde, the political structure — all the fundamental issues remain unresolved and the two sides are very far apart." He added: "I've said from the first that these are very tough issues which can only be taken a step at a time. This isn't an express train and never was."

Mr. Holbrooke later headed for Belgrade and talks with Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic on securing a ceasefire. He was due to meet Croatian President Franjo Tudjman before returning to Sarajevo on Monday. The U.S. envoy's emphasis on the problems of reconciling the warring sides contrasted with his statement that talks on Friday with the Sarajevo government "were the most productive and wide-ranging we had." Mr. Izetbegovic said he was pressing for agreement on free access to Gorazde, the last remaining Muslim enclave in eastern Bosnia. Guarded optimism that an end to the war could be within grasp followed agreements between the sides on a division of Bosnia between them and on constitutional arrangements. Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic told Tanjug news agency that peace prospects were "big and realistic" and blamed the Muslim-led authorities in Sarajevo for any delay. U.S. President Bill Clinton, who would need agreement from Congress to send troops to implement any peace agreement in Bosnia, said on Friday he saw hope for a ceasefire.

Charter initialled for Middle East tourism council

WASHINGTON (USIA) — State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns announced Friday that key parties involved in the Middle East peace process reached agreement in Casablanca on a charter for a regional tourism association.

Following is the text of Mr. Burns' statement:

Key parties involved in the Middle East peace process reached agreement in Casablanca today on a charter for a regional tourism association — the Middle East/Mediterranean Travel and Tourism Association (MEMTTA). The charter was initiated by Israeli, Palestinian, Egyptian, Jordanian, Moroccan, Tunisian, and Cypriot delegations. It will be signed at the Middle East/North Africa Summit in Amman on October 29-31. This new institution was called for in the final document of the first Middle East/North Africa Economic Summit in Casablanca last November.

State Department Senior Attorney/Adviser David Abramowitz, who represented the United States at the meeting held over the last

two days, announced that the United States would provide technical assistance to help create the organization and its U.S. chapter. The Japanese government, in its capacity as "shepherd" for tourism in the Regional Economic Development Working Group of the Multilateral Peace Process, chaired the Casablanca meeting and has played a key role in developing the association.

This new organization, which will be a public/private partnership, will market the Middle East as a tourism destination and assist the development of the tourism industry in the region. The organization will comprise both regional and extra-regional divisions.

The key objectives of MEMTTA are to carry out destination marketing activities; integrate the region into global tourism networks; provide education and training; encourage cooperation in harmonising regulations; mobilise resources to support the development of the tourism industry in the region; and establish a data bank to serve all members.

Christopher: New panel reflects U.S. M.E. commitment

WASHINGTON (USIA) — The U.S.-Israel-Palestinian Trilateral Commission underscores the role of the United States as "a full partner" in the Middle East peace process, Secretary of State Warren Christopher says.

Mr. Christopher outlined objectives of the commission following talks at the State Department on Friday with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

"This meeting this morning emphasises the continuing commitment of the United States to this process," Mr. Christopher said. "And we'll try to carry that out in the form of this trilateral commission, maintaining our longstanding position to help the parties achieve a durable peace and to assist the parties who have taken risks for peace."

Accompanied by Mr. Arafat and Mr. Peres, Mr. Christopher hailed the Israeli-Palestinian accord signed in Washington Thursday and congratulated the two leaders on their "accomplishment" and "creativity."

"This commission is called for in the agreement that was signed yesterday," Mr. Christopher said, "and it does underscore the role of the United States as a full partner in this process."

He said a similar trilateral commission between the United States, Jordan and Israel had proven to be "very valuable."

Mr. Christopher said the parties agreed that objectives of the commission would include:

- promoting cooperative efforts — both public and private — "to foster economic development, in not only Gaza, but of course the entire West Bank... This would include the establishment of industrial zones and other projects," such as perhaps an

electricity grid, or tourism projects including hotels;

- exploring ways "to increase the availability of water resources";
- consulting on matters of mutual interest and how "to best enhance the success of the interim agreement" signed September 28; and
- promoting trilateral cooperation on regional issues.

Mr. Christopher emphasised that the trilateral commission does not replace bilateral efforts, but rather "will seek to support and complement" bilateral efforts.

A working group, under the leadership of an experts group, will be established "to carry forward the activities" of the commission, Mr. Christopher said.

Mr. Arafat characterised the Friday meeting as "one of the most important results of what had been agreed upon yesterday." He expressed the hope that projects that had been discussed, especially concerning industrial zones and water treatment, would be implemented very soon.

Lauding U.S. peace efforts, Mr. Peres said, "today the United States is the only country in the world that has the mechanism, the will, the capacity, the intellectual interest and the detailed knowledge to really run a peace process.... And we are very grateful for it."

Asked if the United States has decided to provide Israel with supercomputers, Mr. Christopher said related issues had been discussed on Thursday but he was not prepared "to make an announcement at the present time. But we do want to be responsive if we can on this issue," he said, "where the technology continues to make the old standards relatively obsolete and we have to update the standards because of the tremendous improvement or increase in technology."

Senate report raps administration's plan to capture Somali warlord

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration failed to see the risks of the U.S. effort to capture a Somali warlord, a shortcoming that contributed to a disastrous 1993 raid that left 18 U.S. soldiers dead, a Senate review concludes.

The report, released late Friday, went to lengths to avoid placing specific blame on President Bill Clinton. But it made clear that Mr. Clinton and his top advisers supported the United Nations' request to capture Mohamed Farah Aidede, the Somali faction leader, despite the reservations of U.S. military commanders. When difficulties emerged, it said, these officials failed to change course.

"It is clear that both civilian officials and military leaders should have been carefully and continually re-evaluating the army task force's mission and tactics after each raid, with an eye toward recommending that the operation be terminated if the risks were deemed to have risen too high," the report concluded.

Written by Senators John Warner, a Virginia Republican, and Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat, two senior members of the Senate Armed Services Committee, the report focuses on the fatal Oct. 3, 1993, firefight in the Somali capital Mogadishu that precipitated a hasty American withdrawal from what began as a famine-relief effort.

"U.S. foreign policy was and will be affected for years as a result of the raid," the report said.

A sharp partisan debate over how much blame should be placed on Mr. Clinton delayed the release of the report for months.

Mr. Warner argued in a separate preface that Mr. Clinton and then-Defense Secretary Les Aspin should have provided armour and other equipment requested by military commanders in Somalia. Mr. Levin

tended in his own preface to say that in the absence of movement on the Syrian-Israeli track, "the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the final status and even the concluded Israeli-Jordan treaty cannot be truly consolidated because of the pressures of unfinished business on the northern front."

chairman of the Armed Services Committee, pressed for the report's release before the second anniversary of the raid in response to requests by relatives of those killed in action.

The report makes clear that General Colin Powell, then chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Gen. Joseph Hoar, then the U.S. commander overseeing Somalia, voiced reservations about the mission to "get Aidede."

It quoted Gen. Hoar as saying: "I told the policy guys that it was a bad thing to do. I thought there was a 50 per cent chance of getting the required intelligence, and, once gotten, only a 50 per cent chance that we would get Aidede. So it was a 25 per cent chance of success."

Gen. Powell was similarly dubious.

"We sent Task Force Ranger with the greatest reluctance," he was quoted in the report. But because the top officers in Mogadishu supported the mission, he said, "I will go along since as a general

principle I believe in supporting the commander in the field."

The aggressive pursuit of Gen. Aidede amid a broader policy of U.S. force reductions in Somalia reflected the "uncoordinated and unclear" U.S. policies, according to the report.

"It was a mistake to seek to marginalise the (Somali) warlords," it contended. "More emphasis should have been placed on political negotiations prior to deciding to use military force."

The military did not escape criticism in the report. It said the Army Ranger unit that conducted the Oct. 3 raid was hampered by an overzealous, "can-do" attitude typical of special forces.

Moreover, it said, Gen. Garrison established a predictable pattern in the rangers' pursuit of Gen. Aidede that "served to announce the presence and mission of his task force, if they were not already known, and to reveal some of the tactics that the task force would use."

Veteran U.S. diplomats urge support for Palestinians, Syrian-Israeli track

WASHINGTON (USIA) — U.S. diplomacy in the coming months should focus on immediate and additional economic support for the Palestinian National Authority, now about to expand its rule to key cities in the West Bank, and quick movement on the Syrian-Israeli track.

This was the considered view of four retired American ambassadors, who have devoted virtually their entire careers to the Arab-Israeli conflict, and a one-time White House aide, who took part in the peace-setting Camp David negotiations about 20 years ago.

All viewed the expansion of Palestinian rule and Israeli pullout from the major towns in the West Bank as "a positive step" but some saw "problems" in the second-phase agreement signed September 28 in the White House between Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

One former ambassador volunteered that the meticulous accord lay the foundations for a Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

Edward P. Djerejian, former Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, called for a "very strong American leadership role in assuring that financial resources" be committed forthwith to the Palestinian National Authority "to show the fruit of peace."

He cautioned against "the mistake that was made in not getting international donor funds immediately into the channel once the Gaza-Jericho accord was signed" two years ago.

On the other hand, he stressed that "there will be no peace between Israel and her Arab neighbours without a breakthrough on the Israeli-Syrian track."

He pointed out that "whereas the Israeli-Palestinian track represents the political core of the Arab-Israeli conflict, the Israeli-Syrian equation represents the geopolitical core of the conflict."

The onetime senior aide to ex-Secretary of State James A. Baker, who initiated the Madrid Middle East peace conference in 1991, went on to say that in the absence of movement on the Syrian-Israeli track, "the Palestinian-Israeli negotiations on the final status and even the concluded Israeli-Jordan treaty cannot be truly consolidated because of the pressures of unfinished business on the northern front."

In addition to Mr. Djerejian, whose last diplomatic post was in 1993 when he was named ambassador to Israel, the others interviewed were Roscoe S. Suddorth, former ambassador to Jordan; William A. Ruger, former ambassador to United Arab Emirates; and Andrew I. Killgore, former ambassador to Qatar; and William B. Quandt, head of the Middle East Desk at the National Security Council during the Carter administration.

Mr. Djerejian, who has also served as ambassador to Syria, noted that the Israeli-Palestinian agreement was "a very important step" because it marked "the beginning of the legitimisation of the Palestinian leadership" — a point made by the other former ambassadors.

The former State Department official felt that President Clinton and Secretary of State Warren Christopher should now become "personally involved" to bring Syrian President Hafez Al Assad and Israeli Prime Minister Rabin "to the point where they would be able to make the tough decisions."

Mr. Suddorth, ambassador in Amman in 1987 with the start of the Palestinian intifada, or uprising, against Israeli rule in the occupied territories, expressed hope that the upcoming Palestinian elections can proceed "without major disruption."

He cautioned against under-estimating the feelings, "particularly of the Israeli settlers, and of the Palestinians" who are opposed to the second-phase accord. He recalled the municipal elections in the West Bank in 1976 when sympathisers of the PLO won entire slates, much to the chagrin of the Israelis who later suspended them.

Mr. Suddorth, now president of The Middle East Institute, a Washington think-tank, also expressed hope that the upcoming months before the elections and the start of the final-status negotiations be used "to build confidence and to get some economic development" underway in the region.

Mr. Ruger, former ambassador to Yemen as well as the United Arab Emirates, with previous diplomatic postings in Damascus and Cairo, said if one takes the long view and look at the last four decades, the Middle East peace process has brought about "real change — the ship has been turned around and it is moving."

He acknowledged that the process has been "slower than we hoped" but nevertheless he felt "very good about it... (especially) that progress is being made."

Mr. Ruger, who this year was named president of an educational and advising group called Amideast, stressed the crucial importance of a basic agreement between Syria and Israel, which he saw as "the big step that needs to be taken in the

overall picture."

Andrew Killgore, now the publisher of the Washington Report on the Middle East, saw the just-concluded agreement as "heading toward the Palestinian state" although, he noted, that the Palestinians were getting "a little something, but not much." He repeated the Arabic saying, "better than nothing."

He hoped that the U.S. government would be helping the Palestinians "a lot more" in the near future and stressed the importance of Israel's adherence to the pullout dates "so that the Palestinian elections can take place."

He expressed fear that if the Israeli opposition party, Likud, wins the national elections next year "we go back to zero, almost." He added, "I think that is the main danger."

After noting the positive achievements, Mr. Quandt did not see the accord as one on which future agreements "are going to be easily built." He was aware that "it took 450 pages to write down the details... suggesting a complicated and unwelcome agreement."

He admitted he may be "too pessimistic" and then went on to urge that the United States ought to be in the future act more than a "facilitator" or "mailman" but "more like a catalyst, which involves putting forth some ideas to overcome some obstacles, putting cash on the table or offering specific commitments and guarantees."

He agreed that the role played by Ambassador Richard Holbrooke in the Bosnia negotiations was "a good (example) of what active American diplomacy can do" but wondered whether a similar approach can be undertaken on the Syrian-Israeli track.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudanese president to visit Qatar

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudanese President Omar Al Bashir was due to start a two-day visit to the Gulf state of Qatar on Sunday for talks with officials there on bilateral relations and regional issues, an official statement said. Lieutenant-General Bashir will arrive from Vietnam, where he is currently on a state visit as part of an Asian tour that also took him to China, said the statement issued by the first undersecretary of the Sudanese Foreign Ministry, Awad Al Karim Fadlallah.

Ben Yahya gives interview to Israeli TV

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Tunisian Foreign Minister Habib Ben Yahya, in his first interview on Israeli state television, said his country wanted to help revive the stalled peace talks between Israel and Syria. "We must now round off the unfinished symphony of peace by working on live in the Syrian and Lebanese tracks so that everyone can live in peace and security," he said in the interview broadcast on Friday night. The minister said Tunisia wanted to play a "discreet" role in reviving the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, as it had done "in the final quarter of an hour" of talks last week that led to the Taba accord on extending self-rule. Mr. Ben Yahya was interviewed in the U.S. capital after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the West Bank accord at the White House on Thursday. Israel and Tunisia have no diplomatic relations but signed an agreement in October 1994 to open interests sections in Tel Aviv and Tunis. In March, Tunisia informed the Jewish state that the opening was to stay on hold.

4 French citizens killed in Turkey bus crash

ANKARA (R) — Four French citizens were killed and 21 people injured when a tourist bus overturned in Turkey's western province of Izmir early on Saturday. Izmir police said. "The four killed were French, and 17 more French people, two Lithuanians and two Turks were injured," a police official told Reuters. "The bus hit the roadside barrier and overturned. It was due to careless driving." The accident occurred near the township of Selcuk, close to the ancient town of Ephesus on Turkey's Aegean coast and a popular destination for tourists. Turkey has one of the world's highest traffic accident death rates.

5 killed in Abu Dhabi crane collapse

ABU DHABI (R) — A crane at a construction site collapsed on to a street in Abu Dhabi on Saturday, killing five people and injuring several, police and witnesses said. "There are five dead. We are still investigating. It's one of the worst construction accidents in 10 years," said one policeman. "It's not clear whether the dead are labourers or engineers. Others were wounded, but I don't know how many." Witnesses said the crane crushed a foreman's trailer at the construction site of a 16-storey building on Abu Dhabi's Corniche Road.

Publisher of book on Kurds sentenced to prison

ISTANBUL (AP) — The publisher of a book on Kurds was sentenced to five months in prison after the work was deemed separatist propaganda, the publishing house announced. Ayse Nur Zarakolu, owner of Bege Publishing, was convicted by the semi-military state security court for printing the book "Kurds' Internal War." Ms. Zarakolu told the Associated Press she would appeal. A six-month prison term for Ms. Zarakolu was ratified by the appeals court in July for a book written by Yasar Kaya, the chairman of the pro-Kurdish Democracy Party that was ordered shut down last year. She has to start serving that sentence Dec. 25. Ms. Zarakolu spent six months in jail last year for another book her company had published. She is still on trial for eight other books. Scores of writers, journalists, and publishers have been convicted and imprisoned for similar reasons. Turkey has come under severe criticism for its crackdown on freedom of expression.

Suspected militants kill 2 in south Egypt

ASSIUT (R) — Suspected Muslim militants shot dead a policeman and a driver in the southern Egyptian town of Mallawi on Saturday, security sources said.

They said gunmen opened fire on a police car in front of the local state security chief's house. Four policemen and two passers-by were wounded, the sources added.

While fleeing from the crowded street where the attack took place, the gunmen opened fire on a policeman and a driver who were walking to work. The two died immediately, police said.

Sources at the hospital in Mallawi, 260 kilometres south of Cairo, said some of those wounded in the first shooting were in serious condition.

Mallawi, one of the major towns in Minya province, has been the centre of clashes between police and members

of Egypt's largest armed militant organisation, Al Gamaa Al Islamiya, for nearly a year.

In a separate attack unidentified gunmen shot and seriously wounded an off-duty police guard near the town of Abu Qurqas, about 20 kilometres north of Mallawi, security sources said.

Although crushed in Cairo and other big Egyptian cities, the Gamaa have remained active in southern Egyptian provinces such as Assiut, Minya and Sohag. The gunmen make use of the vast sugar cane fields and nearby mountains to make hit-and-run attacks against policemen to steal their weapons.

More than 840 people, mostly police and militants, have been killed since the Gamaa launched a campaign of violence in 1992 aiming to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's government and establish a strict Islamic state.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
14:00	The Finestones
14:30	Joshua Jones
14:45	Droopy Master Detective
15:00	Family Playhouse
15:30	Soccer Match — UEFA Champions League 1995/96
17:00	Children's Programme — Les Mondes Enfants
17:30	Serie — J'insiste
19:00	News in French
19:15	Ushuaia
19:30	News Headlines
19:30	Cinema: Cinema
20:00	Nurses
20:30	The Bold and the Beautiful
21:30	The New Avengers
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature Film — "Tribute"
23:10	Return to Eden (Ep. IV)
00:30	Keeping Up Appearances
PRAYER TIMES	
04:08	Fajr
05:05	Sunrise/Dhuha
11:30	Dhuhr
14:49	Asr
17:27	Maghrib
18:44	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church, Sweifeh, Tel. 810740	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
Gradual drop of temperatures is expected with winds becoming northerly moderate to active. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate to active and seas calm.	
Min./Max. temp. Amman 17/29	

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Emergency	630341
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	617101
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	605931
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	661176
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
Central Amman Telephone	623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661101
Jordan Television	773111
Radio Jordan	774111
Water Authority	680100
Jordan Electricity Authority	815615
Electric Power Company	636381
RJ Flight Information	08-53200
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-53200
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Muhkles Mazharah	620425
Dr. Jun'Al Aduh	758498
Dr. Walid Al Wardi	675485
Dr. Yusef Rashid	696301
Firas pharmacy	661912
Ferdous pharmacy	778336
Al Asena pharmacy	637055
Natroukh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmoisi pharmacy	637660
Natroukh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
IRBID:	
Dr. Ali Shoaibi	246140
Alquds pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Fihal Al Sayyid	986702
Khalil pharmacy	985417
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	131313/32
FOR THE TRAVELLER	
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT	
This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information	

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN	
Dep. Amman	8:00 a.m. every Monday
Arr. Damascus	5:00 p.m. every Monday
Dep. Damascus	7:30 a.m. every Sunday
Arr. Amman	5:00 p.m. every Sunday
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.	
Apple	600/400
Banana	680
Banana (Mukammal)	620
Cabbage	170/120
Carrot	420/320
Cauliflower	300/180
Cucumbers (large)	180/120
Cucumbers (small)	300/150
Eggplant	200/100
Garlic	350/250
Grapes	700/500
Guava	600/500
Lemon	270/200
Marrow (large)	200/120
Marrow (small)	300/220
Mulukhia	170/120
Okra	850/700
Onion (dry)	220/180
Orange	500/400
Pepper (hot)	240/180
Pepper (sweet)	220/150
Pomegranate	240/200
Potato	280/250
Spinach	300/200
Spring Beans	750/600
Tomato	1100/800
Water Melon	100/70

Home News



A Medical Aid for Iraq team Saturday arrives in Amman with relief supplies en route to Baghdad (Petra photo)

Volunteers arrive from London with £200,000 worth of medical aid for Iraq

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The London-based Medical Aid for Iraq (MAI), a charity organisation, is preparing to carry a shipment of drugs to Iraq on Monday as part of its campaign to help Iraqi hospitals especially those caring for children, according to Susan Funnell a member of the group which arrived in Amman Saturday with the shipment.

"We are taking £200,000 worth of drugs and medical equipment in two trucks as part of the MAI mission

NEWS IN BRIEF

Health minister heads for WHO talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Health Aref Barazneh on Saturday left for Cairo to take part in the 42nd session of the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Mediterranean region committee which will open its meeting in the Egyptian capital Sunday. Participants in the meeting will discuss the committee's 1994 annual report and developments achieved in combating acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Malaysian deputy discusses Islamic studies centre

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Malaysian parliamentarian on Saturday said his country was currently studying the prospect of establishing a higher Islamic education institution in cooperation with Jordanian universities. Parliament member Azmi Haj Khaled said the institution will aim to teach Islamic studies and train Islamic scholars with the aim of spreading Islamic education. At a meeting with Higher Education Minister Rabea Saoud, Mr. Khaled commended higher education institutions in Jordan and said his country is keenly interested in preparing an Arabic language and Islamic studies education programme. Mr. Khaled discussed with Dr. Saoud means of enhancing Jordanian-Malaysian ties in educational fields. The minister briefed the visiting parliamentarian on higher education in Jordan and the ministry's policies aiming to maintain its advanced level. He said 800 Malaysian students are currently enrolled at Jordanian state universities.

WHAT'S GOING ON

FRANCO-ARAB FILM FESTIVAL	EXHIBITIONS
Palestinian-Belgian-French film "Dreams and Silence," at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, at 6:00p.m.	*Photography exhibition "Islam in Spain" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman
FAIR	* Jordanian-Syrian-Turkish products at King Abdullah Gardens, Al Bassam Hall.
* Display of Algerian products at Amman International Exhibit at Marj Al Hamam (11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)	* Works by Lamia Abdel Sahib and Samer Ousama entitled "Aux Sources Orientales de la Fontaine," at the French Cultural Centre.*

Tarshihi heads for UNRWA talks in Vienna

By Ghafila Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Director General of the Foreign Ministry's Department of Palestinian Affairs, Ibrahim Tarshihi, will head for Vienna Sunday at the head of a delegation to attend what could be the last annual meeting of the Advisory Commission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Vienna.

Mr. Tarshihi told the Jordan Times that the next meeting could be held in Amman as the agency would have completed the relocation of its headquarters to the region.

He said it could be difficult for the agency to meet in Gaza, its new headquarters, because of political factors that would block the way for Syria and Lebanon to attend the meeting of the advisory commission which was set up in 1950 to assist UNRWA's commissioner general in carrying out his duties.

Mr. Tarshihi said that the meeting in Vienna will review a report submitted by the agency's Commissioner General Ilter Turkmen about UNRWA's operations, services and budget.

The meeting will bring together representatives of donor countries as well as Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, the host countries of Palestinian refugees.

"Those countries will present their views about UNRWA's operations as well as the problem of Palestinian refugees," said Mr. Tarshihi.

He said that the one-day meeting will also discuss the series of recent problems that have been encountered by the agency and its employees.

Although UNRWA workers have staged several sit-ins during which they pressed many demands for the improvement of working conditions, he said, there was not any direct answer whether the agency is willing to meet those demands.

Therefore, he said, some of these demands will be tackled during the meeting.

UNRWA workers staged two sit-ins earlier last month to protest against the agency's failure to meet their demands regarding salary hikes, end of service compensations as well as health, education and social services.

Labour committees at UNRWA have threatened to stage an open strike if the agency fails to meet their demands.

"In the meeting we will bring up issues that we believe are fair," said Mr. Tarshihi in response to a question whether the delegation would raise the employees' demands.

In particular, he said, the Jordanian delegation would bring up the issue of the Educational Sciences Faculty, which UNRWA had decided to close but later agreed to suspend the decision for one year.

UNRWA had said its decision to shut down the faculty was prompted by budget constraints, but postponed the implementation of the decision after consultations with Jordanian and Palestinian officials and receiving pledges that the two sides would help it obtain international financing for the college.

Mr. Tarshihi said that for the faculty to open for one more year is not enough, and "our concern is the continuity of the faculty's services."

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, also reported that Mr. Tarshihi will address the meeting to outline the government's stand on the agency's services and operations in the Kingdom's refugee camps. The Kingdom hosts more than 40 per cent of the Palestinian refugees and UNRWA employs about 6,000 people in Jordan.

Director of Occupied Territories Section Abdul Karim Abdul Haijah will be the acting director general during Mr. Tarshihi's absence.



Ibrahim Tarshihi

NRA, American firm explore potential for oil exploration in northeast

AMMAN (J.T.) — The American oil company, Andarko, Saturday signed a letter of intent with the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) to start prospecting for oil in Jordan, according to NRA Director General Fakhreddin Daghestani.

Dr. Daghestani, who signed the letter with the Andarko Vice President John Seitz, told the Jordan Times that the American firm will later sign a memorandum of understanding with Jordan defining the areas where the oil prospecting work will be carried out.

He added that it will take the company three months to study various aspects of the prospecting project before signing a final agreement with the government.

Dr. Daghestani said initial agreement was reached with the company to start work in the northeast part of the kingdom near the Rishbeh district close to the Iraqi border.

Mr. Seitz was received by Acting Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Abu Aleem in the presence of Dr. Daghestani for a discussion on the project and to hear from Mr. Seitz about his company's projects in other parts of the world.

Dr. Abu Aleem was quoted by the Jordan News Agency, Petra, as saying that there were signs of oil in commercial quantities in the northeast areas of Jordan, and Andarko will be granted a concession to conduct its prospecting in that particular area.

His views were echoed by Mr. Seitz who said that preliminary studies and seismicological tests conducted by the company have showed good prospects for finding oil in the basalt areas in the Rishbeh district.

Dr. Daghestani said the agreement to be signed with Andarko covers production sharing and cooperation with the NRA.

Trans Global, another American oil company signed a memorandum of understanding with the NRA on Sept. 5 to prospect for oil in the Dead Sea and the Jordan Valley regions.

The agreement commits the company to drilling at least two exploratory wells in the Dead Sea area, conducting seismicological surveys and holding geophysical studies, according to Khaled Shiyab head of the oil department at the NRA.

Mr. Shiyab said other firms are expected to show interest in oil exploration in the Kingdom, and agreements with these oil firms are expected before the end of 1995.



Acting Minister of Energy Mohammad Abu Aleem Saturday discusses oil exploration prospects with John Seitz, vice president of Andarko, an American oil firm, and an accompanying delegation (Petra photo)

Business groups sign intent to form Jordan-India council

AMMAN (Petra) — The Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry Saturday signed an agreement with the Amman Chamber of Industry to establish a Jordan-India Business Council aimed at stimulating trade between India and Jordan and promoting investments and the transfer of modern technology especially in industrial fields.

Manay Kumar of the Indian federation said the agreement marks the beginning of a new era of economic and trade relations between the two countries and promoting trade exchanges.

In an address at the signing ceremony, Mr. Kumar said the balance of trade between India and Jordan is in favour of the Kingdom which last year sold his country \$155 million worth of products in exchange for \$53 million worth of Indian products.

Ministry of Industry and Trade Secretary General Mohammad Smadi said the recent political and economic developments in the region require that India and Jordan revise their trade agreements with a view to promoting exchanges and increasing and diversifying goods exchanged between them.

He said that Jordan has recently enacted laws aimed at promoting joint investments and added that the joint council was expected to create an opportune climate for promoting trade. Dr. Smadi noted that Jordan was in the process of joining the World Trade Organisation next year and was currently holding talks with the European Union on facilitating the entry of Jordanian products into European markets.

Agriculture department staff learn fire combating procedures

AMMAN (Petra) — A national training course on combating forest fires opened Saturday at the Department of Range and Afforestation.

The course, in which 24 employees representing various departments of agriculture are participating, is organised by the Arab Organisation for Agricultural Development (AOAD) in cooperation with the Ministry of Agriculture.

Delivering a speech on behalf of Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif at the opening ceremony, Ministry Secretary General Ghaleb Abu Urabi said it was necessary at present to increase forest areas in the Kingdom for environmental reasons as well as to prevent soil erosion and develop water sources.

Mr. Abu Urabi said forest fires damage environmental balance and are detrimental to biodiversity.

Despite that the number of forest fires in Jordan is modest compared with other countries, the Kingdom is attentive to forest fire prevention, the secretary general said.

He said a developed network of forest stations and towers were built in wooded areas, and modern communication equipment was installed.

Director of AOAD's regional office in Jordan Abdul Hameed Al Kayed stressed in another address the importance of proper training in combating forest fires.

He added that forests constitute only 2.6 per cent of the total area of the Arab World.

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Tahiti, Australia question France's Pacific role

PAPEETE, Tahiti (R) — Tahitians have conceded they could not stop France's final nuclear test campaign and accused Paris of declaring a "state of war".

At the same Australia questioned France's role in the South Pacific and called on it to apologise for the tests.

"We are in a state of war," said Roland Oldham, spokesman for Hiti Tau, an umbrella group of non-government organisations which promotes non-violent protests.

"It's war that's been declared by the French state. That's the way we feel deep in our heart, but of course we don't have arms, guns or nuclear armaments," he said.

Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, speaking in Sydney, urged France to apologise for resuming nuclear tests and called into question the legitimacy of the French Pacific connection.

"The fact is what France has done has called into question the legitimacy of

its connections in the Pacific for its contempt and betrayal of the values that democracies have," Mr. Keating told an Australian Labour Party conference.

"Because it is a democracy, it ought to have respect for the people where it is testing. It's not testing these weapons in its own metropolitan territory, it's testing them on an area of the Pacific it calls its own," Mr. Keating said.

French Polynesia's leading anti-nuclear activist Oscar Temaru said France's final series of nuclear tests was now unstoppable, but Mr. Keating vowed to continue to pressure Paris.

Mr. Keating said his government was seeking United Nations support to condemn the tests. "I can assure you the government will fight this to the end," he said.

Mr. Temaru said he did not believe there would be more violence following the second test, expected at anytime.

"This is a peaceful people. There will be no trouble in this country, I can tell you,"

said Mr. Temaru, leader of the Tavini Huiraatira Party (Liberation Front of French Polynesia), the territory's largest independence party.

French President Jacques Chirac announced in June France would conduct a final series of up to eight tests between September and May 1996.

Rock-throwing rioters waged running battles with police under a rain of tear gas, burning Papeete International Airport, buildings and cars and looting shops after the first test at Mururoa Atoll on Sept. 5.

Mr. Oldham said the only guarantee for peace was to immediately stop the testing.

"The first riot is only reaction by the people to state terrorism, so I do think everybody has a good reason to be nervous," he said.

The heavy armed-police presence now in Papeete was provocative, he said. There are some 800 gendarmes now stationed here, three times the number for the first test.

"We feel like we are in prison, that we are criminals. To us it is repression," Mr. Oldham said.

"We do believe in human rights... but we all have limits. If there is going to be violence it is not our fault," Mr. Temaru said.

Mr. Temaru said Tahitians must now focus on territorial elections in March to gain their freedom from France.

His Tavini Party holds five seats in the 41-seat French Polynesian Territorial Assembly, but it says the low voter support is because many Tahitians do not vote.

"Today we know we can organise demonstrations every day, but the French president will go ahead with the rest of the tests," Mr. Temaru said.

"I have said to my people, to concentrate their energy on the next general election — that's a priority," he said. "The main point of our struggle is to get our real freedom from the French colonialists."



Judge Lance Ito points to and yells at defence attorney Barry Schick to sit down during a hearing following an objection by the defence on prosecutor Marcia Clark's closing rebuttal arguments in the O. J. Simpson murder trial in Los Angeles (AFP photo)

Simpson's fate now in hands of jury

LOS ANGELES (R) — The jury in the O. J. Simpson murder trial finally took control of the case Friday after more than nine months of testimony, taking the fate of the football hero in their hands.

They must delve through more than 40,000 pages of evidence and more than 1,000 exhibits to decide whether the football legend murdered his ex-wife, Nicole Brown Simpson, and her friend, Ronald Goldman, by viciously stabbing them to death or if he is the victim of a police conspiracy.

Simpson has pleaded not guilty to the June 12, 1994, murders.

A web of intrigue, violence and conspiracy has been woven by both prosecutors and defence lawyers over the last nine months, and it is up to the jury to decide which side has made the most credible arguments and put on the most believable witnesses.

Their mammoth task in the most widely watched trial in the history of the United States — its television coverage has surpassed that of presidential elections, the Gulf War and the Middle East peace agreements — is to sort the wheat from the chaff.

There is plenty of both. Prosecutor Christopher Darden, in his highly praised delivery of prosecution closing arguments, exhorted the jurors to find their way through the "smoke" created by Simpson's "dream team" of defenders.

Simpson's defence, led by

celebrated attorney Johnnie Cochran, has given the jury multiple reasons to find the former star running back not guilty.

He was framed, Mr. Cochran said, in a police conspiracy headed by detective Mark Fuhrman, branded as a racist, rogue cop who started the series of events that led to Simpson's June 17 arrest last year by planting a bloody glove. That glove matched a similarly blood-stained glove at the crime scene outside Nicole Simpson's townhouse, just hours after the murders.

The defence, using conjecture rather than hard evidence, has also painted a picture of a group of tainted Los Angeles cops who went along with Mr. Fuhrman's plan and planted false blood evidence at the crime scene and at Simpson's home.

The prosecution, forced to admit that Mr. Fuhrman was a "lying racist," nevertheless said he could not have planted the glove and has pointed to convincing scientific DNA evidence that puts Nicole Simpson's blood on the defendant's socks and Ronald Goldman's blood in his white Ford Bronco.

When Judge Lance Ito sent the case to the jury shortly before 4 p.m. local time (0100 GMT) Friday, it was a year and three days after the case officially began with jury selection.

The start of the trial's decisive phase came as crowds gathered outside the courthouse, police went on alert in preparation for the coming verdict and even

President Bill Clinton expressed concern about the racial controversy stirred by the case.

Given the last word in closing arguments, prosecutor Marcia Clark wrapped up with a dramatic flourish, playing a 1993 taped emergency call in which Nicole Simpson was heard desperately and tearfully pleading for help against an enraged Simpson.

As the tapes played, images of her bruised and battered face and a crime-scene photo of her bloodied body flashed on a giant courtroom screen. The victims' family members sobbed openly, some putting their hands over their ears to block out the audio.

Prosecutors, who say the famous defendant killed his ex-wife and Goldman in a fit of obsessive rage, wanted those haunting images to be the last the jurors saw.

Ms. Clark's final words were spoken solemnly and almost in a whisper: "Because we have proven... far beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant committed these murders, we ask you to find the defendant guilty of murder in the first degree."

Judge Ito then gave the jury their final instructions before sending them back to the jury room to choose their foreperson, who will guide them through their deliberations. They decided in just five minutes, which legal analysts said was something of a record.

The jury was to begin its deliberations Monday.

Over 100,000 Tamils demand end to Sri Lankan air attacks

COLOMBO (AFP) — Over 100,000 Tamil civilians urged President Chandrika Kumaratunga to order a halt to air attacks in northern Sri Lanka following the bombing of a school, separatist Tamil rebels said Saturday.

The clandestine radio of the rebel Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) said more than 100,000 civilians protested the killing of school children in an air raid last week, according to Tamil sources who monitored the radio.

At the end of a three-hour march in the LTTE-controlled Jaffna peninsula, the protesters, including religious leaders, academics and students, produced a memorandum to Mrs. Kumaratunga demanding an end to air strikes.

Copies of the document

were handed over to Jaffna representatives of the International Red Cross and United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to be given to Mrs. Kumaratunga's office here, the Voice of Tigers radio said.

The LTTE has alleged that 71 civilians, mostly school children, were killed when the air force bombed a school in Point Pedro town, which is located at the tip of the Jaffna peninsula.

The French organisation Doctors Without Borders said 44 people, including 34 children, died in the incident.

The military has said that claims by foreign humanitarian organisations may be true but insisted the air force had targeted a rebel base and accused the LTTE

of turning school buildings into camps.

Meanwhile, LTTE radio said guerrillas "completely destroyed" a police station in eastern Kalkudah town Friday, killing 23 policemen and seizing a massive haul of weapons from the demolished building.

The military said 23 policemen were killed and 12 wounded in the pre-dawn strike in Kalkudah by about 150 LTTE guerrillas in one of the worst attacks in the region since the militants renewed their separatist war in April.

The LTTE is fighting for an independent state in the northeast for Sri Lanka's minority Tamils. More than 50,000 have been killed in the protracted ethnic conflict in the past two decades.

N. Korea rice talks widen to mull Japan ties

BEIJING (R) — Emergency rice talks between reclusive North Korea and its rich adversaries Japan and South Korea widened Saturday to the prickly issue of how to normalise Pyongyang's ties with Tokyo.

North Korean and Japanese negotiators began two days of talks on how to deliver some 200,000 tonnes of rice pledged by Tokyo to Pyongyang, which has said summer floods killed 70 and caused \$15 billion in damage, especially in agriculture.

Also in Beijing, a separate group of North Korean officials held an unscheduled fourth day of talks with negotiators from arch rival South Korea, seeking to break a three-day deadlock.

As late as Friday evening South Korean officials had said there was little hope for settling a row over what Seoul regards as Pyongyang's hijacking of a South Korean trawler and that the sides could return home empty-handed.

Seoul has pledged 150,000 tonnes of free rice to Pyongyang but further commitments hinge on the fate of the 103-tonne Woosung 86 and its surviving eight crew.

The ship was seized on May 30 by a North Korean patrol boat and three crew are reported to have died in custody.

Getting rice to North Korea's stricken population was the priority in both negotiating sessions, but sources said the Korean-Japanese talks had taken on far wider significance.

Japanese diplomatic sources, noting that the lack of full diplomatic ties had hindered emergency aid shipments, said North Korean negotiators had been informed that Tokyo now was prepared to tackle the sensitive issue of normalisation.

"The rice programme technically has nothing to do with the normalisation issue, but Japan is saying that if North Korea wants to discuss it, Japan will accept," one source said.

"There has been no response from North Korea. Everything is unclear right now," he added.

Julia Carling voices despair, as Diana calls Will a 'fool'

LONDON (AFP) — As Julia Carling voiced her despair at the break-up of her marriage after weeks of speculation about her husband Will's friendship with the Princess of Wales, Princess Diana was reported as calling the England World Cup rugby captain a "fool."

"I had always valued my marriage as the most important and sacred part of my life and it hurts me very much to face losing my husband in a manner which has become outside my control," Julia Carling told journalists Friday.

"I have given total support to Will and this has unfortunately proved to be no avail," said the 30-year-old public relations executive, television presenter and model.

Her 29-year-old husband also faced criticism from Princess Diana, whose friendship with him fuelled media speculation here in recent weeks after revelations that the pair telephoned each other two or three times a day to "gossip and giggle."

According to reports in

several tabloid newspapers Saturday, the princess was adamant that she was not to blame for the much publicised problems of the Carling marriage.

She was quoted as telling close friends that the temporary separation was "not down to me."

"It is a matter for the Carlings. It is not my fault. He's made a fool of himself. He has behaved like a fool," she is reported to have said.

Meanwhile, Will Carling brushed aside his marital problems and joked with business leaders about the rumours of his alleged secret meetings with the Princess of Wales.

Speaking to local business people at a dinner Friday in Leicestershire, central England, Carling said he may have to call on them later to confirm his whereabouts that night.

He told his audience he had had "quite a difficult day" before joking with them about newspaper reports of his secret meetings with the princess. He referred jokingly to "secret trysts."

He then explained he would be using the audience to verify his whereabouts for that evening, saying: "I will be calling you all as witnesses."

The Carlings, who have been married for 15 months, issued a statement Thursday that they had "agreed to spend some time apart" and stressed that "nobody else is involved." "They hope that by allowing themselves time apart to reflect, they will be able to get back together as soon as possible," the statement said.

Will Carling had already become a well-known face in European rugby through his sporting exploits, but in recent weeks he has hit the front pages of British papers through his friendship with the Princess of Wales.

After the initial revelations by his former personal assistant Hilary Ryan of a "close friendship," Carling announced he would not be seeing the princess again — and his wife warned that Princess Diana could have a fight on her hands.

Russian voters may have booklet, not ballot, in upcoming election

MOSCOW (AP) — So many candidates have entered the race for Russia's parliament that voters may be given a booklet rather than a regular ballot on Dec. 17 when the election is held.

More than 60 parties and movements have registered

with the Central Election Commission, the Interfax News Agency reported Friday. With 450 seats at stake, there could be thousands of names on the ballot.

Nikolai Ryabov, the commission chairman, told a meeting of regional election

officials that the ballots may be in booklet form rather than a single-sheet list of candidates as in the past.

A poll released this week by the International Foundation of Electoral Systems found that a majority of Russians are confused about their voting rights.

Reeve says love of family put him off suicide

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Superman star Christopher Reeve wanted to end it all after a fall from a horse made him a quadriplegic but the love of his wife and children convinced him to go on living. In a televised interview aired Friday — Reeve's first since the May accident — the actor described his torment at being paralysed from the shoulders down. "The demons would get me in the middle of the night," he said. "In my dreams I'd be whole, riding my horse, playing with my family. We'd be making love, we'd be doing everything. And then suddenly I'd wake up and it's two in the morning and I'm lying in bed and I can't move and I'm on a ventilator. Those are the worst times." Reeve, 42, said he suggested to his wife Dana Morosini, "Maybe I should just check out," but that she told him she and the children loved him. "You're still you," she said. "I could see how much they needed me and how lucky we all are and that my brain is on straight," he said. "The thought vanished and has never come back again." Reeve, who broke his neck while riding in an amateur competition in Virginia, must use a ventilator to breathe and is learning to move in an electric wheelchair.

Cocaine by the glassful

BOGOTA (R) — The best crystal may never have cost so much. Colombian police said they arrested five drug traffickers at Bogota's international airport as they were preparing to load 10 boxes of glassware — with 110 packets of cocaine stashed inside them — onto an overseas flight. More than 245 kilograms of the costly white powder had been carefully tucked inside the boxes stamped with the usual "fragile — this end up," police said.

Repo man gets car — and a baby

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (R) — A man who repossessed a sporty car zipped off with the owner's eight-day-old son in the back seat. Police said the boy's father, John Curtis, 23, left the car running while he attended to bank business. When he emerged from the bank, his black 1986 Pontiac Firebird was missing, along with his infant son. It took police about 30 minutes to track the vehicle down to the repossession lot, where no one had noticed the baby in the back seat. The boy was unharmed, police said.

Liz Taylor set for more surgery

LOS ANGELES (R) — Actress Elizabeth Taylor will undergo surgery again after her second hip replacement operation was unsuccessful, her publicist said. Taylor, 63, whose movie career has been overshadowed by a litany of health and personal problems, will enter hospital in about three weeks to get a new replacement for her right hip. It was originally replaced in June, 15 months after she received a new left hip.

Hillary Clinton plays host to her fan club

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton hosted a reception for members of her fan club, telling them "there is nothing to be in a bad mood about" as they stick their necks out for her and her causes. The unusual gathering in the East Room of the White House honoured the 139 coordinators of the 11,000-member Hillary Rodham Clinton Fan Club, based in Maryland.

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World News



Radical students throw petrol bombs at teargas-firing riot police outside Sogang University in Seoul while trying to make their way through the police lines towards the houses of former presidents Chun Doo-Hwan and Roh Tae-Woo (AFP photo)

S. Korean government shaken by protests

SEOUL (AFP) — South Korea was shaken by a second straight day of violent anti-government protests Saturday, as thousands of students rallied nationwide calling for the blood of two former presidents.

But the ruling party stood firm against the demands for indictment of generals-turned presidents Roh Tae-Woo and Chun Doo-Hwan, blamed for a military coup in 1979 and massacre of civilians in 1980.

The nationwide protests by thousands of radical students, intellectuals and activists is posing a serious challenge to President Kim Young-Sam since he took office in early 1993, observers here said.

Police said some 30,000 university students were taking part in rallies in Seoul and 14 provincial cities Saturday afternoon to press for the punishment of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh.

In Seoul some 16,000 riot police troops were deployed by evening around government buildings and prosecutor offices. They had cordoned off the neighbourhoods of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh in central Seoul in expectation of an attempt to storm their homes.

Normal Saturday crowds stayed off the streets in anticipation of a repeat of Friday's violence which filled the streets with teargas and left at least 20 injured.

Before sunset police allowed a crowd of 10,000 slogan-chanting students, activists and opposition lawmakers, carrying banners reading "execute the murderers!" to march down the two cordoned-off lanes of the main street following a rally at a public park.

Police said they had detained 32 protesters in Seoul Friday and formally arrested two of them for indictment, while sending the remaining 30 for summary trials for up to 30 days in jail.

Student radicals, who had lost much of the public support they won during their fight against military rulers following democratic reforms in 1987, were apparently encouraged by support from their teachers.

Some 6,400 professors from 99 universities across the country put their names to a petition calling for the punishment of Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh. On Saturday they announced the setting up of a formal association.

In a statement, the "May 18 group of professors who signed the petition for indictment" denounced the decision by government prosecutors not to indict Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh as a "betrayal" of the people and called for the drafting of a special law to punish them.

May 18 was the date in 1980 which marked the start of the bloody Kwangju pro-democracy uprising in which some 200 people died.

The opposition camp echoed their demand, but appealed to students not to use violence.

The ruling Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) reaffirmed the government's decision not to reopen the case against Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh, who still have many followers in the ruling camp.

"It is impossible to reopen the case which the prosecution authorities already closed because of outside pressure," party Secretary General Kang Sam-Jae told journalists.

DLP spokesman Sohn Hak-yu accused the opposition camp of stirring up students to exploit the on-going protests ahead of next April's National Assembly elections.

Mr. Chun and Mr. Roh seized power through a military coup in 1979. The coup later triggered the uprising in Kwangju.

Powell played part in Wilson decision to bow out

SAN FRANCISCO (R) — The long shadow of retired General Colin Powell dimmed California Governor Pete Wilson's fund-raising prospects, contributing to his decision to pull out of the race for the Republican presidential nomination, aides say.

Mr. Wilson, 62, became the first Republican casualty of the 1996 presidential race Friday, announcing he was abandoning his quest for the White House because of lack of cash.

"As much as your hearts and mine tell me to fight on, my conscience tells me that to do so would be unfair to all of us," Mr. Wilson told hundreds of cheering supporters in Sacramento, the California state capital.

Mr. Wilson, viewed as a moderate, bowed out after a campaign plagued by internal rifts, poor public opinion polls and bad luck as well as by financial difficulties.

Nine declared candidates remain in the Republican field headed by Senate majority leader Bob Dole of Kansas.

Mr. Wilson campaign Chairman Craig Fuller said there was no question persistent speculation about whether Gen. Powell, the popular retired chairman of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff, would enter the presidential race had hurt Mr. Wilson.

Mr. Fuller said Gen. Powell had positions "which are in many cases quite close to Pete Wilson".

"We found some prospective donors asking if they couldn't wait (to contribute) until Powell made a decision," Mr. Fuller told Reuters.

Gen. Powell says he will not make a decision on whether to run for president until he completes a tour to promote his new book. He has not said if he would run as a Republican or as an independent but polls show Gen. Powell could give Sen. Dole a close fight for the Republican nomination if he seeks it.

Sherry Bebitch Jeffe, a political analyst at California's Claremont Graduate School, agreed Gen. Powell had affected Mr. Wilson's campaign.

"Supporters and contributors who might be with Mr. Wilson are holding back, waiting to see what Gen. Powell is going to do," she said.

Sen. Dole and senators Phil Gramm of Texas and Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania were among republican presidential hopefuls who said their campaigns would benefit from Mr. Wilson's withdrawal.

Mr. Wilson's much-vaunted fund-raising machine did not get out of first gear. He raised far less money than

11 miners dead, search for 52 others continues in India

DHANBAD, India (AP) — Workers placed boulders to stem the flow of a swollen canal that flooded 12 coal mines in a northern Indian state, trapping dozens of workers, officials said Saturday.

Rescue workers have recovered 11 bodies of miners from the pits so far and officials said they believe some of the miners could still be alive after Wednesday's accident in Bihar state.

Heavy monsoon rains and water from the breached canal had swirled into the pits 145 metres (485 feet) deep, trapping 63 miners, officials and police said.

By Saturday, rescue teams installed three giant pumps to remove millions of gallons of water from the mine. They hope to add a fourth pump by Sunday, said chief engineer Sharda Prasad.

Efforts were also on to divert the canal to cut off the water supply to the mine, said A. K. Gulati, managing director of the government-owned Bharat Coking Coal Ltd., which operates the mines.

He said rescue teams would go into the mine only after all the water is pumped out.

Meanwhile, officials ordered the relatives of the victims to move out of the area, fearing that the water from the canal could endanger their lives.

But they resisted. They said the accident occurred due to negligence of the top management. They said miners were asked to go down the pits even though officials knew that water was seeping into them.

The area is about 125 miles (200 kilometres) south of Panna, the state capital.

Chretien says no to debate on Quebec independence

OTTAWA (AFP) — Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien refused Friday to take part in a debate on next month's referendum on whether his home province of Quebec should break away from Canada.

Quebec's separatist provincial Premier Jacques Parizeau had proposed a four-way debate involving pro- and anti-independence leaders from both the federal Canadian and Quebec provincial governments ahead of the Oct. 30 vote.

"It's obvious that for the first time in his life Mr. Parizeau has lost confidence in himself," Mr. Chretien, who opposes Quebec sovereignty, told the House of Commons.

Mr. Parizeau had agreed in principle to a debate including Quebec's leading opponent of separation from Canada, Daniel Johnson. But Mr. Chretien said Mr. Parizeau simply was afraid to face Mr. Johnson alone.

Other sovereignty proponents have suggested that Canadian federal officials should be involved in the debate, including Lucien Bouchard, head of the pro-independence Bloc Quebecois in the House of Commons.

"Mr. Parizeau needs Mr. Bouchard, that's obvious, because he has lost confidence," Mr. Chretien said.

Quebec separatists are trailing in polls for the mostly French-speaking province's sovereignty referendum, and some observers believe Mr. Parizeau is pushing hard to try to sway voters to the cause.

Rebels and mercenaries in charge in Comoros Islands

MORONI, Comoros Islands (R) — Army rebels backed by veteran mercenary Bob Denard's forces were in control of the capital of the Comoros Islands Saturday.

They controlled Moroni's airport, radio station and other strategic buildings when the first group of foreign journalists arrived following Thursday's coup d'etat.

"There is no fighting on the island, all is calm," coup leader Captain Combo Ayoubu told reporters at the airport.

"We didn't want to kill people, we didn't want to make blood flow," he said, speaking in French.

Residents in the Comoros Friday said seven people were killed in fighting during the coup.

Capt. Combo heads a Transitional Military Committee (TMC, Comité Militaire de Transition) but said an interim president would be named shortly before multi-party elections in the Islamic republic of about 450,000 people.

Capt. Combo defended the crucial role played in the coup by French mercenary Denard, who also has Comoran nationality.

"If you're talking about Bob Denard, he is a Comoran, he is not considered as a mercenary. He's a soldier like all other soldiers," said Capt. Combo, his barrel chest festooned with ammunition pouches and two Chinese-made grenades.

Capt. Combo was warmly greeted by residents when he went on a meet-the-people tour of Moroni's Independence Square Saturday morning.

But many of the islanders were angered by the involvement of Denard and his group of white mercenaries, thought to number between 10 and 20.

"Bob Denard should leave the country," some shouted as Capt. Combo toured the square. Others burned old photographs of the 66-year-old French soldier of fortune who was formerly military strongman in the Indian Ocean archipelago.

Capt. Combo said deposed President Said Mohamed Djohar was "in good health under my protection".

But he held out the possibility that Mr. Djohar may face legal action. "Inquiries will be carried out by the justice system," he said.

Asked why he seized power, Capt. Combo replied: "The general public didn't know how to get themselves out of the mess they were in."

"The solution was Bob Denard and myself."

One of the first acts of Denard's mercenaries when they landed on Grande Comore, the archipelago's main island, Thursday, was to free Capt. Combo from jail.

"The Comoro resistance was hidden in the country for three years," Capt. Combo, detained since a failed coup in 1992, said.

"Bob Denard came to liberate this country — we are friends. He came to give a hand. Lots of things were completely intolerable under the former president."

Two companies of the French Foreign Legion were on alert in the neighbouring island of Mayotte when the foreign press left early Saturday to fly to Moroni.

But the French government has not announced its intention to restore Mr. Djohar to power despite a defence treaty pledging French support in case of external aggression.

Capt. Combo promised presidential elections for 1996.

"This organisation (the TMC) is only for a short time until an interim president is named. There will be lots of opposition parties. We are looking for pluralism and multi-party elections."

Capt. Combo, aged 42 and slightly bearded, stands more than six feet (1.85 metres) and cut a burly figure dressed in camouflage fatigues.

When the press arrived at Moroni Airport it was completely secured by mercenaries and rebel troops already dubbed "Denardists" and "Comboists". I counted two dozen Comoran troops with AK-47 assault rifles.

There was no sign of fighting around the terminal despite claims by some residents Friday that the paramilitary Gendarmerie was still loyal to Mr. Djohar.

U.S. House rejects defence bill Clinton opposed

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. House of Representatives Friday rejected a \$243 billion defence bill that would have funded a host of weapons President Bill Clinton has said the United States does not need.

The House rejected the bill 267-151, giving the House and Senate the task of working out a new one, after Budget Director Alice Rivlin told Congress Mr. Clinton was ready to veto the bill because it was \$6.9 billion higher than his request.

It would have funded two more B-2 Stealth bombers as well as warplanes, ships and other weapons Mr. Clinton does not want.

"In effect, the president won today. He didn't want it and he won," said the bill's floor manager, Republican Representative Bill Young of Florida, chairman of the House National Security Appropriations Subcommittee.

Mr. Young said the Bill was defeated primarily by abortion opponents but several other groups also contributed.

Anti-abortion groups, including the Christian Coalition and National Right to Life Committee, lobbied Congress to kill the bill because a provision approved by the House to prohibit abortions in military hospitals was weakened in the final bill, a compromise between House and Senate versions.

The final bill makes the abortion ban dependent on a separate defence authorisation bill also prohibiting abortions in military hospitals. But there is some question whether Congress will approve the authorisation bill this year.

Mr. Young said another group of House members opposed the bill because it weakened a House provision that would have required Mr. Clinton to get Congress's approval in advance of sending U.S. troops to Bosnia. The final bill makes only a non-binding "sense of Congress" statement that Mr. Clinton should do so.

Mr. Young said a third group of legislators opposed the bill because it would fund both more B-2 bombers and a third cold war-era Seawolf submarine.

Sinn Fein urges Britain to drop 'military agenda'

DUBLIN (R) — Political allies of the Irish Republican Army (IRA) called Saturday for immediate all-party peace talks on Northern Ireland hours after the guerrillas spurned British demands for a handover of arms.

As 900 activists of Sinn Fein met to review the region's deadlocked peace process, chief negotiator Martin McGuinness said London's policies were being dominated by British military strategists despite a year of peace.

"The British prime minister needs to assert his authority over those people so that we can move on to a political agenda, towards recognising that we can only resolve the issues at the heart of the problem in Ireland at the negotiating table. And we can only do that through all party peace talks."

Britain refuses to convene all-party talks until the IRA surrenders some of its vast arsenal to prove a commitment to lasting peace after a ceasefire in its fight against British rule 13 months ago.

The IRA Friday branded the demand as "ludicrous" and said Britain was using it to stall progress to a lasting resolution of the Northern Ireland conflict.

"There is no possibility of the IRA meeting these demands," the IRA declared.

"(Prime Minister) John Major's government knows enough of Anglo-Irish history to understand that there is no possibility of disarmament except as part of a negotiated settlement."

The wrangle has bogged down political momentum for nine months. Britain denies it is seeking an IRA surrender.

It says that "guns under the table" will deter politicians from the province's pro-British majority from taking part in talks, and they need reassurance that the IRA's long war is genuinely over.

Disarmament by the IRA and loyalists groups, who killed Catholics in a counter-campaign to safeguard rule by Britain, was always part of the deal to secure all-party talks, according to British ministers.

Mr. McGuinness told reporters outside the conference centre: "The British government have to recognise that hundreds of their soldiers have killed hundreds of Irish nationalists... Nobody's hands are clean and what all of us have to recognise is that we must now all go without precondition to the negotiating table."

On Friday Irish Prime Minister John Bruton voiced cautious optimism about prospects for all-party talks.

Mr. McGuinness said: "I think it is too soon to say whether we should be optimistic (about breaking the impasse) but I think we should not despair. We should not give up hope."

"I think that we all have to use whatever influence we have towards convincing this British prime minister that now is the time for a political agenda, as opposed to a military one."

Zaire to expel Rwandans if U.N. fails

KINSHASA (R) — The people of eastern Zaire will see to it that Rwandan refugees go home if the United Nations is unable to repatriate them by the end of the year, the govern of Zaire's South Kivu province said Saturday.

"The Rwandan refugees must all be repatriated by Dec. 31. After that date, the people of South Kivu, who support the government's decision, will see to it."

The Rwandan refugees will be willingly or unwillingly made to comply with the government's decision," Jules Kyembwa Walumona told Reuters.

Zaire has said it wants all Rwandan refugees to leave by year-end. The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) has promised to accelerate voluntary repatriation programmes but many refugees say they fear reprisals for last year's genocide if they return to their home villages.

"The solution to this repatriation problem is up to Kigali. The ball is in their court. It is Kigali that must create the conditions for the return of these refugees. People must be able to go back to their old homes once they return to Rwanda," Mr. Kyembwa said.

"It's right to look for those responsible for genocide, but not all the refugees took part in the genocide."

Most of the refugees in eastern Zaire are Hutus, and include soldiers of the ousted Rwandan government and militiamen blamed for killing up to one million mainly Tutsi Rwandans last year.

Government spokesman Philippe Masegabisa Nzanzu told state television after a cabinet meeting Friday the government had reaffirmed its desire to send every single Rwandan refugee home by Dec. 31.

The return of the refugees looks increasingly unlikely in the near future after a series of killings of Hutus in western Rwanda close to the Zairean border.

In the worst of the attacks, more than 110 Hutu villagers were killed in the Rwandan town of Kanama on Sept. 12. Rwanda blamed soldiers who went on the rampage after the killing of a Tutsi officer by Hutu gunmen.

On Wednesday, unidentified gunmen shot dead the Hutu mayor of Kayove, on the shores of Lake Kivu.

Kayove is next to the forest of Gishwati which Rwandan Defence Minister Paul Kagame says has been infiltrated by extremist Hutu guerrillas operating from camps in Zaire.

Latvia holds 2nd elections since independence

RIGA (AFP) — Latvians Saturday began voting in their second general elections since the former Soviet Republic regained independence four years ago, with anti-Russian nationalist parties expected to gain ground.

Voting will be over two days, with polling stations open until 8.00 p.m. (1800 GMT) on both days, as laid down in Latvia's constitution, which dates back to before World War II.

Around 1.3 million people are eligible to vote in the elections, in which 1,007 candidates from 19 parties are contesting 100 seats in the Saeima, the country's parliament.

The legislature will be Latvia's second since it became independent from the Soviet Union in August 1991 and its sixth since the creation of the Baltic republic in 1918.

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Reclaiming Arab Jerusalem

FAISAL AL HUSSEINI, the Palestinian official in charge of the Jerusalem portfolio in the Palestinian National Authority (PNA), has been touring the Arab Gulf countries with an ambitious plan to strengthen the Arab and Muslim presence in East Jerusalem. Through his proposed platform of "Jerusalem Week," which he recently kicked off in response to Israel's festivities a few weeks ago to commemorate King David's capture of the holy city, Mr. Hussein aims to translate Arab and Muslim rhetoric about the importance of Jerusalem into reality where it counts most.

No doubt Arab Jerusalemites know more than anybody else that the most effective way to assert Arab presence and commitment to East Jerusalem is through the application of an adequate economic package which would strengthen and deepen their steadfastness and their attachment to the city. Mr. Hussein's initial target is to collect some \$250 million from the Arab and Muslim world, and based on this he has started his campaign in the Gulf region where he hopes to collect on earlier promises for support by the Gulf leaders. Given the urgent calls for the rehabilitation of the Arab role in Jerusalem, we would like to see a much bigger amount collected commensurate with the size and importance of the challenge.

There are many ways where Arab and Muslim investment can be made for this purpose. To begin with, in spite of all Israeli protestations to the contrary, there are in fact two Jerusalems, one in the west and one in the east. A quick glance at Jerusalem would readily reveal this self evident reality. No wishful thinking to the contrary, whether legislative or political, would ever succeed in denying this truth. On the top of these differences, there is a vast cultural, religious and political gap between the eastern and western sectors of the city.

The second fact is that East Jerusalem remains largely neglected and the gap between it and the other parts of the city is growing instead of narrowing. This is where Arab, Muslim and Christian investment can be used in a very effective way to reassert the Arab grip on East Jerusalem. We would like to see hotel construction and real estate acquisition on a wide scale and the establishment of institutions and businesses across the board. Housing schemes for the Arab residents can also be launched to facilitate their stay.

In the context of the new era of peace in the region, Israel can no longer apply arbitrary restrictions on Arab and Muslim investments. This way Jerusalem can be a test case for the validity of the peace accords already struck between the two sides. And this is where Arab pious words on Jerusalem can be put to the test. We therefore wholeheartedly support what Mr. Hussein is trying to accomplish on behalf of his and our city and reaffirm in the process our conviction that he is on the right track.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the signing of the Taba agreement for the expansion of the Palestinian self-rule, a columnist in Al Ra'i daily Saturday said that the accord will definitely lead to the creation of a Palestine sovereign state. It is true that the Israelis are still adamant in denying Palestinians living in the diaspora entry to the Palestine self-rule areas, but this ban cannot continue for ever, said Tareq Masarweh. Most of the 17 million Jews living in the world are not Israeli citizens but Israel has given them the right to settle in the Jewish state any time, said the writer, who said the same can be said about the Palestinians. The celebrations at the White House did not mean that the Americans, the Europeans or even the Arab countries have given the Palestinians the right to their own homeland, it is the Palestinians' own struggle and perseverance that have enabled them to reach this stage, added the writer.

A WRITER in Al Dustour expressed the view that a decision by the residents of Irbid to cancel a visit to their city by Shimon Shamir, the Israeli ambassador to Jordan, bears a great significance. Fakhri Kawa said that it was a sort of referendum by the Jordanian people in the north reflecting their refusal to normalise relations with Israel despite the Jordan-Israel peace agreement. By aborting the ambassador's visit, the Jordanian citizens have voiced their consent over rejecting that treaty and over any normalisation with the Zionists who continue to occupy Arab land, raid Lebanese towns, cling hard to their occupation of ... and Hebron and continue to establish settlements on Arab lands, said the writer.

Bigger is not always better

By Dr. Yusuf Mansur

OVER THE last 15 years, we watched the government grow into a heavy monolith of stuffed bureaucratic flab and we didn't mind. Why? It was the rational thing to do: Someone else was willing to foot the growth bill and they did. The domestic revenue share (domestic tax revenues) of total government revenue was only 52 per cent in 1980. In other words, we only paid for slightly over half the government's bill while the other 48 per cent was paid for by the rest of the world. So who cared if the government kept employing civil servants? Frankly, nobody did and correctly so. After all, we did not really pay their salaries, foreign aid did. So the public sector continued to employ the unemployable and promote the inefficient. As a result, by 1994 the public sector employed 48 per cent of the labour force. However, in 1988 the 10-year commitment of Arab oil producers to help Jordan ran out and was replaced by ad hoc grants which ended with the Gulf war. By 1994 direct and indirect taxes rose to 30 per cent of the GDP; what used to be outright grants became loans, and the domestic revenue share of total government revenue rose to over 86 per cent. The party is over, now pay the bill.

Several other developments have further exacerbated Jordan's deteriorating economic situation. According to a recent

World Bank study, unemployment in Jordan is 18.8 per cent, the third highest in the Middle East after the West Bank and Algeria. (I have seen estimates that were as high as 20.8 per cent and as low as 14.4 per cent, which is evidence of the amazing accuracy of data in Jordan and how our different government agencies have finally gotten their act together). So we cannot go around advising the government to lay-off people because that would be crazy.

The same study also noted that inflation in Jordan is 4.5 per cent which is high relative to the income growth rate and will become even higher if we take into account that the government has promised another, badly needed, wage adjustment to its civil servants during the 1996/97 fiscal year. Furthermore, the U.S. aid package of approximately \$375 million earmarked for Jordan should drive inflation up if received in cash. However, I believe that the aid will be in goods and services with very little cash content. Thus, its inflationary effect may be minimal.

To add insult to injury, Jordan's external debt burden rose from \$2.8 billion in 1981 to \$6.8 billion in mid-1994. Jordan was forced, following a first round of debt rescheduling with the Paris Club, to devalue the dinar by 35 per cent in 1989. In 1992, Jordan rescheduled its debt again with the Paris Club and in 1993 rescheduled its debt with the London Club. The ratio of

debt to GDP in 1994 was 120 per cent. However, the decision by the U.S. Congress to forgive Jordan's debt of approximately \$700 million should ease some of the debt burden on the economy and shift more of our resources to infrastructure provision. Still, Jordan's debt is in the billions and we must envisage ways to reduce our debt without throwing the economy into a deeper recession. Alas, there are no sweet remedies, only bitter ones.

Publicly owned enterprises are not doing so well. The profitable ones have obtained monopoly profits, to the detriment of the consumer, by restricting supply and charging exorbitant prices for their services. Others are simply flops that nobody wants to buy. Why? Because they couldn't operate as protected monopolies. For example, even though Royal Jordanian (RJ) holds a monopoly licence as the only commercial Jordanian airline, it has to compete for clients with other air carriers and therefore its market could not be protected to generate monopoly profits. Let's face it, had RJ been able to forbid Jordanians from using other air carriers, its profits would have skyrocketed, at our expense of course. Thus, the distinguishing factor between a profitable public enterprise and a losing one is whether the enterprise receives government monopoly protection or not. Recent developments in the external environment, such as joining the World Trade Orga-

nisation (WTO) and the present restructuring requirements of the IMF and the World Bank, will force us to abandon protected monopolies and replace them with efficient companies which will either sink or swim.

The answer to our problems must be obviously clear: Stop the expansion of the public sector and let private sector participation increase and rightfully relieve the government of some of its economic burden. But quick, we need anti-trust laws and corporate laws on conflict of interest. In other words, we need to encourage competition and make sure that it prospers. The government's role must be to ensure the break-up of existing cartels and to prevent the formation of new ones. Furthermore, training and re-training must be a viable option for those who choose to join the private sector. Otherwise, unemployment of the inefficient and surplus labour will result in massive unemployment rates. Especially since our growth rate of 5.7 per cent is well below the 7 per cent growth rate required to stop the present unemployment rate from growing.

But it is not that simple. Mentalities and attitudes have to change drastically. We have trained our top management to be bureaucrats, in effect limiting their area of expertise to control. Now they must relearn their business from the ground up. May be the next Nabeel and Hisham play will be "welcome private sector."

Publish or be damned

Unabomber is not the only one putting the arm on poor, defenceless editors

"ALL THE news that's fit to print" is still the slogan of the New York Times, but this week it published, with the Washington Post, something that by these newspapers' own admission had no journalistic merit. That is an embarrassing confession for an editor, a breed that does not take kindly to being pushed around. A week earlier Business Week had been ordered by a federal judge in Ohio to pull an article just before it went to press. The expostulations — "Unconstitutional!" was but one of them — found an echo wherever the words "first amendment" make the heart beat stronger. In fact editors find themselves obliged to publish much more often than they are forbidden to. And when they do so, they generally succumb to threats less awful than those of Unabomber, the terrorist author of the tract published this week. There may be some lessons here, for editors as well as terrorists.

Unabomber's success in getting his 35,000-word critique of modern society into print certainly lends new meaning to the term "free speech". Blackmail is a better word for it. The decision to publish was taken in the expectation that Unabomber, a Luddite with an anti-technology bee in his homespun bonnet, would now end his bombing campaign. That is awfully the hope not just of the editors concerned, who cited "public-safety reasons" for their \$40,000 indulgence, but also of the FBI, which urged them to yield to the bomber's demands. In April he promised to stop trying to blow people to bits — he has killed three and injured 23 others in 16 attacks over 17 years — if he could get his thoughts published in a widely read periodical.

The editors at the Times and the Post claim to be

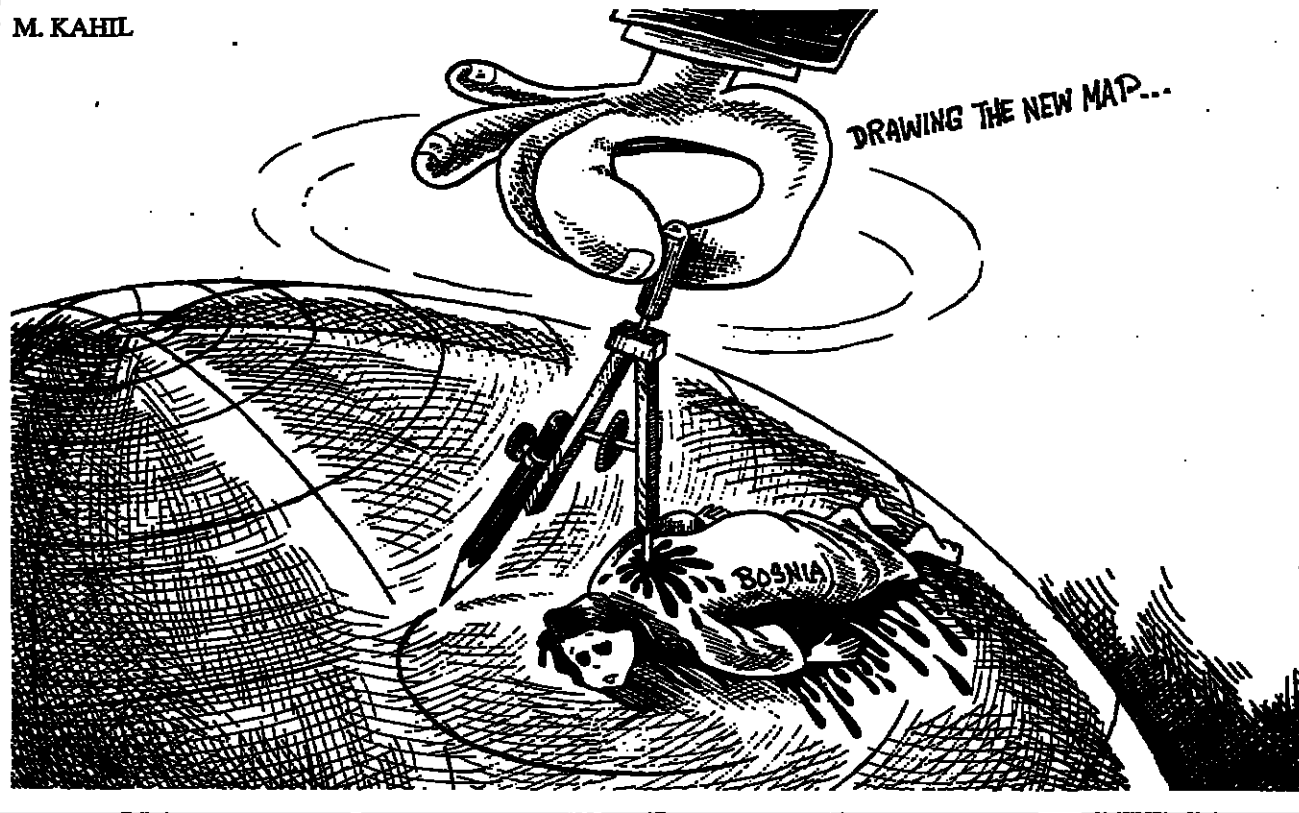
unconcerned about imitative letters that may henceforth accompany unsolicited articles. They are probably right to be fairly relaxed. Most editors have enough trouble worrying about other sorts of unwelcome items in their publications.

Top of the list are any headed Apology or Correction. The time, energy and sometimes expense that lie behind even a tiny box at the bottom of a column can be vast. Almost as bad are the editorials written by the megalomaniac proprietor: just as the paper is going to bed, in walks R. Maxwell and dictates 600 loony words on the virtues of free enterprise, or socialism, or tar water taken thrice daily after meals. Even the advertisements can be awkward. Appearing unwittingly next to an article on the product or company being promoted, they can be as embarrassing when the article is favourable as they will seem churlish when it is critical. And when they are manifestly more interesting than the surrounding editorial matter, they can be downright dispiriting for the hacks.

Nowadays there is a new publish-or-else hazard for editors to take with: the letter from the government of Singapore. A lively, controversial letters page is every editor's desire. Predictable, long-winded attempts to "put the record straight" tend to frustrate it. Unfortunately, they have to be published if circulation in Singapore is not to be restricted. Now, if the author concerned were to take out an advertisement, at least that would boost revenues. Alternatively, we may just have to start explaining that we carry these outpourings, much as the Times and the Post have carried Unabomber's, for "public-safety reasons."

The Economist

M. KAHIL



Beirut slams the door to keep 'human garbage' out

Robert Fisk examines how Lebanon is taking its chance to get rid of refugees

THE LEBANESE Minister of Tourism called them "human garbage," the wave of Palestinian refugees who were supposedly set to flood back to Lebanon from Libya. Abu Maher Yamani found out what this meant when he tried to return to Lebanon after 10 days' holiday in Vienna. He was refused entry to Beirut, although he had Lebanese residence papers.

Three Palestinian women from Lebanon attending the Beijing women's conference flew home to Beirut only to be put aboard a flight to Lamaca. So was a Palestinian woman returning from Switzerland, where she had received medical treatment for war wounds. A Palestinian businessman flew into Beirut and was flown to Lamaca, then to Amman, from there back to Beirut and on to Dubai. None of them, it seems, had ever been to Libya.

Their sin was to have been outside Lebanon when Colonel Muammar Qaddafi decided to expel 25,000 Palestinians from Libya, only about 7,000 of whom held Lebanese residence papers. The Lebanese allowed 350 into the country by boat and then blocked the sea route and banned all Palestinians with Lebanese residence who were outside Lebanon — around 100,000, according to Palestinian sources — from returning without special visas.

In the course of only two days, the Beirut authorities reduced the Palestinian refugee population here by almost a third, courtesy of Colonel Qaddafi.

In a country where contempt for the 350,000 Palestinians — half of whom live in 12 refugee camps across Lebanon — unites Muslims and Christians, the Lebanese response to Col. Qaddafi's expulsion of foreign workers has brought both despair and anger. Thousands of Palestinians studying or working abroad, most of whom would never dream of visiting Libya, have found themselves stranded in foreign lands. The Lebanese documents they relied upon to bring them back to Lebanon are no longer valid without the special permission of the Lebanese embassies.

There is, of course, another side to the story. For years, Yasser Arafat's PLO, whose latest agreement with Israel leaves the refugees registered here largely abandoned to their fate, ran a state within a state in the refugee camps of Lebanon, participating in the country's civil war in which 150,000 men and women died; in the Christian village of Damour, south of Beirut, Palestinian gunmen massacred most of the remaining Catholic Maronites in one of the war's first acts of "ethnic cleansing." Christians massacred Palestinians in far greater numbers at Tel Al Zaatar in 1976 and at Sabra and Shatila, as the Israelis surrounded the camps, in

1982. The hatreds engendered by that war have never been appeased.

Few were surprised, therefore when the Minister of Tourism, Nikola Fatouch, called the refugee "human garbage." At least one member of parliament, Naja Wakim, condemned Mr. Fatouch's remark and the government subsequently revoked the visa requirements for all Palestinian residents who had left Beirut since June.

But a new government communiqué, number 478, issued by the Minister of Interior, Michel Murr, states that all other 1948 refugees, which means almost all the Palestinians in Lebanon, must in future have exit visas before leaving the country and reentry visas before returning.

Palestinian sources say that it may take months for the thousands of refugee residents outside Lebanon to obtain permission to return. "Lebanon wants to get rid of the maximum number of Palestinians it can," a former PLO official said in Beirut. "But instead of the 7,000 Palestinians from Lebanon who were in Libya, it's all 100,000 Palestinians outside the country who are stranded. It's even shown Mr. Arafat up in a good light. Now he can say: 'Look what I'm doing for you, and look how Qaddafi and the other

Arabs treat you'."

Damascus has allowed Palestinian residents to go back to Syria and have accepted those with homes in Lebanon, for the present. Most of the 200 Palestinians left on the Libyan-Egyptian border have been allowed to continue to Amman and Gaza. But Lebanon's new rules seem set to stay.

The Lebanese authorities have long taken the view that Lebanon paid a disproportionate price for the 1948 exodus of refugees and cannot give them citizenship without changing the demographic balance: most Palestinians here are Sunni Muslims and citizenship might make the Sunni community the most powerful in Lebanon.

A few Palestinians have obtained Lebanese citizenship since 1948 — 30,000, according to a 1987 U.N. estimate. Others have set up wealthy businesses in Beirut or married Lebanese. The wives of both President Hrawi and the Prime Minister, Rafiq Hariri, are Palestinian. Almost all are survivors, or children of survivors, of the 1948 war, and thus come from the part of Palestine that became Israel.

Many Christian Lebanese who allied themselves to Israel during the war demanded that all Palestinians should be expelled from the country, without once mentioning that if the Palestinians are to go "home," they will have to return to the one country which assuredly will not have them: Israel itself.

The Independent

LETTERS

Important news missed

To the Editor:

FOR ME, the Jordan Times serves as an important and critical source of news and happenings around the world and in particular in Jordan. Thus I was surprised to find no reference to the scheduled time change in Jordan in your Thursday, Sept. 28 edition. A time change occurred on Sept. 29 morning. I only found out about the change because someone who had read one of the Arabic dailies mentioned it to me. Time is of the essence in this increasingly competitive world. I hope that, in the future, such a major event will find an appropriate headline on the front page of Jordan Times.

Abrar Al Sattar,
Amman.

Getting the facts right

To the Editor:

PLEASE CORRECT the misinformation given in Rana Hussein's report about the Desert castle endurance Race on Friday, Sept. 29 (printed Saturday, Sept. 30).

The first horse to finish the 43-kilometre course was Gazal (official spelling), owned by the Annab Stables jockeyed by Amer Thamer Al Iraqi (the name he goes by), age 19, from Iraq. The time was one hour and 34 minutes.

The Annab Stables is near Yaddoudeh, and is owned by Mr. and Mrs. Miquad H. Annab. The facility is primarily aimed at instructing riders, and focuses on Dressage.

Gazal is a seven-year-old gelding, a Shagya Arab, bred in Romania. He has been in an endurance training programme, for the last two months. He was imported to Jordan in 1994, along with five other horses.

Good journalism requires getting the facts straight and from the source, as well as giving credit where it is due.

Mrs. Alma Lou Annab,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

Features

U.S. urges creation of 'international coalition' to help Palestinians reap fruits of peace

WASHINGTON (USIA) — Secretary of State Warren Christopher has called for a broad "international coalition" to help the Palestinians "convert the promise of peace into concrete improvements in their lives."

Speaking on Thursday, just hours after Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed their agreement on expanded Palestinian self-rule, Mr. Christopher told the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee, "Israelis and Palestinians have done their part. Now we must do ours."

He announced plans for a meeting in early December to consider a list of Palestinian "priority infrastructure projects" assembled by the United States and the World Bank. At that meeting, he said, "we expect countries to announce the specific projects they will undertake, backed by formal pledges of resources."

The United States, he said, is already redesigning its assistance package to reflect the list and will announce "the allocation of a substantial part of our five-year, \$500 million commitment" at the December meeting.

Following is a transcript of the secretary's remarks at the meeting:

Fellow ministers and dignitaries: Welcome to the State Department. We convene at a moment of great promise and urgency. The agreement signed this morning at the White House is of enormous historical significance. It must be viewed from the perspective not of a few years, or a decade, or even a generation, but from the perspective of an entire century of conflict and suspicion.

Defying the odds, Israelis and Palestinians have again taken a major step forward on the road to peace. Their courage and determination have given their people and the world a unique opportunity to write a new, more hopeful chapter in the troubled history of the Middle East.

Israelis and Palestinians have done everything the world has asked of them and more. They have completed an extremely complex set of negotiations. They have overcome intense political opposition. They have stood firm in the face of repeated acts of terror and violence. Israelis and Palestinians have done their part. Now we must do ours.

Two years ago, at our first donors' meeting, we correctly identified our central task to help the Palestinians convert the promise of peace into concrete improvements in their lives. We understood that for peace to endure and win lasting support, it needed to produce tangible benefits for people on the ground.

Since then, important gains have been made. With our support, the Palestinian Authority has come into being. There now exists a working set of institutions for Palestinian self-governance. In Gaza, the first internationally-financed projects are under way. A construction boom is beginning to transform the landscape. For the first time, Palestinians there can see the signs of a better future beginning to take shape.

Now we must build on that progress and extend it to the West Bank. To succeed, we must re-energise and re-focus the assistance effort. For this next phase, we should agree today on a common strategy for building the infrastructure necessary for sustained economic development. The resources of the international

community must be targeted on key projects like new roads, wells, and water and sewage systems. Above all, we must help Palestinians create the jobs and economic opportunities that will broaden a constituency for a lasting peace.

The United States and the World Bank have identified a list of priority infrastructure projects. On October 18 in Paris, the Bank will chair a Consultative Group meeting at which our experts can discuss these projects in more detail. Then, during the first week of December, in conjunction with Norway and the EU, we will convene a conference on economic assistance to the Palestinians. At that time we expect countries to announce the specific projects they will undertake, backed by formal pledges of resources.

The United States has already begun redesigning its assistance programme to reflect this new focus and urgency. At this conference, we plan to announce the allocation of a substantial part of our five-year, \$500 million commitment. Among our highest priorities will be water projects throughout the West Bank, including an immediate upgrade of the water distribution system in Hebron. Our aim is to help ease shortages and raise the quality and quantity of water — an issue of strategic importance to both sides.

The United States will also support plans by Israel and the Palestinian Authority to create industrial zones that will attract new business and private investment, while generating rapid job growth. The United States has been working with Israeli and Palestinian officials to grant reciprocal duty-free status for products manufactured in the

West Bank and Gaza. We are now moving to conclude these negotiations. While our focus will shift to infrastructure, the Palestinian Authority will continue to need help in meeting its own start-up costs, especially as it gains responsibility for the West Bank. The IMF estimates that additional resources will be required in 1996. The United States will announce a substantial pledge to the Holst Fund, and we urge others to do the same. We also hope the need for outside budgetary support will be eliminated as soon as possible, and we appreciate Palestinian efforts to hold down costs and collect taxes.

We must also continue to support key sectors of the Palestinian Authority. The development of a professional police force is essential to maintain order and fight terrorism. Multilateral efforts have made an important contribution toward this goal. The United States has donated hundreds of vehicles to the police. Spain, Russia, and Japan have offered other equipment or housing. Egypt and Jordan have provided training; and Norway, Saudi Arabia, and others have funded police salaries.

Public health is also a top priority. Complementing the efforts of other donors to improve Palestinian medical services, the United States has just delivered a large package of equipment and supplies for use in health facilities in the West Bank. Finally, we must support next spring's Palestinian elections and the development of democratic institutions in the West Bank and Gaza. We applaud the EU's leadership role in organising election monitors.

In all of these efforts to help the Palestinians, the broader our international coalition, the better. All of us face constraints. Therefore, all of us must share the burden, not just in providing resources, but in mobilising wider donor support. Only a broad-based, coordinated effort can help the Palestinians succeed. Regional initiatives such as the Middle East Development Bank must also play a critical role in building a wider foundation for regional prosperity. At next month's Economic Summit in Amman, I expect we will agree to create the Bank and to pursue other means of spurring private sector investment and job creation.

In closing, let me urge each of your governments to review expeditiously the strategy we outline today, especially the list of infrastructure projects. Now is the time for us to act, with vision and boldness, to consolidate the agreements the Israelis and Palestinians have courageously concluded. This historic peace must not be allowed to fail. Our efforts in its support must not falter.

I look forward to hearing from you today and to intensifying our cooperation in the crucial weeks ahead.

Following is the text of the chair's summary of the Ad Hoc Liaison Committee's Sept. 28 meeting:

The Ad Hoc Liaison Committee met at the ministerial level in Washington on September 28, 1995 at an extremely important juncture in the peace process. The government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation signed an Interim Agreement provided for in the 1993 Declaration of Principles. The parties deserve not only our congratulations, but, more important, our ac-

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help the Palestinians, the broader our international coalition, the better. All of us face constraints. Therefore, all of us must share the burden, not just in providing resources, but in mobilising wider donor support. Only a broad-based, coordinated effort can help the Palestinians succeed. Regional initiatives such as the Middle East Development Bank must also play a critical role in building a wider foundation for regional prosperity. At next month's Economic Summit in Amman, I expect we will agree to create the Bank and to pursue other means of spurring private sector investment and job creation.

In closing, let me urge each of your governments to review expeditiously the strategy we outline today, especially the list of infrastructure projects. Now is the time for us to act, with vision and boldness, to consolidate the agreements the Israelis and Palestinians have courageously concluded. This historic peace must not be allowed to fail. Our efforts in its support must not falter.

I look forward to hearing from you today and to intensifying our cooperation in the crucial weeks ahead.

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King meets Mubarak

(Continued from page 1)

ment in the whole of the region. Jordan will undertake all the necessary arrangements that would ensure the success of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit in October, the King said. He urged all concerned nations to take active part in the coming event.

Referring to the situation in Bosnia, King Hussein paid tribute to the United States efforts to put an end to the tragedy there.

President Clinton underlined the Jordanian role in the peace process and Washington's appreciation of Jordan's contribution to the U.N. peacekeeping mission.

Mr. Clinton emphasised his country's support for the MENA conference, noting that Secretary of State War-

ren Christopher and Secretary of Commerce Ron Brown will represent the United States at the coming event.

President Clinton said his country understands Jordan's needs of modern weapons and the need for developing and modernising the Jordanian Armed Forces so that they can assume the key role of safeguarding security and stability in the Middle East.

Attending the meeting were Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker, Royal Court Chief Marwan Al Qasem, His Royal Highness Prince Talal Ben Mohammad, the King's military secretary, and Jordan's Ambassador to the United States Faysal Tarawneh.

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280 stuck at Salloum crossing

(Continued from page 1)

Libyan government for restraint, to stop expelling and stop relocation of Palestinians within the country until a solution can be reached. Cairo representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Panos Mountzis told Reuters, "Innocent people are suffering from these measures."

The official Libyan news agency JANA said on Saturday the Palestinians were "on their way home in compliance with the Palestinian masses' decision to go home, responding to the call of the revolution leader (Qadhafi)."

Palestinians stuck at Salloum earlier this month said they were reduced to begging for food from travellers. The UNHCR's Mountzis said children were stuck down

with diarrhoea and people were scared to sleep at night because of the scorpions.

The Palestinians who arrived on Saturday, mostly women and children, said they came from Tripoli, 1,200 kilometres west of Salloum. The expulsions raised fears of a humanitarian crisis as Egypt is reluctant to accept expelled Palestinians except those transiting with official papers to Jordan or Gaza and the West Bank. Other Arab countries are also reluctant to accept them.

Tripoli has insisted that the Palestinians had decided themselves to return to their homeland after holding a special congress in the capital on Thursday.

JANA said Saturday that

the latest deportees had "published a statement paying tribute to colonel Qadhafi for his revolutionary sense which allowed him to understand the seriousness of the plot against the Palestinian people."

"This plot is aimed at forcing Palestinians into exile and to permanently stay in their countries of reception," it said.

The Palestinian self-rule authority condemned both Libya and Israel over the plight of those stranded on Egypt's borders.

"The decision of Libya to expel the Palestinians and the refusal of Israel to let them return to their country have been the cause of intolerable suffering," said Palestinian Labour Minister Samir Ghosheh.

###

Arab markets must liberalise to join global economy

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuter

AMMAN — Arab bankers and officials said Saturday that Arab financial markets needed further reforms to help them integrate fully into the global economy.

"Arab financial markets have to integrate with the global economy and to allow themselves for more competition... they should be opened to international markets and we should allow these markets to come and compete with us," Jordan's Finance Minister Basel Jarrah, told Reuters during the 21st annual conference of inter-Arab Cambist Association held in Amman.

However Mr. Jarrah, who earlier addressed over 330 Arab bankers and foreign exchange dealers on Jordan's own IMF-guided reforms, said a prerequisite was to raise efficiency and local "monetary authorities moving towards currency convertibility and free movement of capital within the region."

Bankers said Arab financial markets faced challenges of lifting of foreign currency controls to attract foreign investment and billions of dollars of emigre capital that fled the region for a safe political haven and in search for higher returns.

The economies of the region vary considerably from closed to semi-closed econo-

mies like Libya, Syria and Algeria, to states such as Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia that have moved towards reforms — with currency convertibility and easing of foreign exchange controls.

"Monetary authorities have to make their currencies convertible, and unless they move in that direction and support that approach with proper domestic policies they cannot achieve much," Mr. Jarrah said, adding that the Jordanian dinar was already fully convertible for current account deals and was moving towards a gradual convertibility in capital transfers.

Mr. Jarrah said that without free market policies

it was doubtful that the region could be integrated with the global economy or achieve the same rates of growth attained by the fast growing emerging markets.

However, political stability in the wake of the Middle East peace process "gave an opportunity for the Arab World to cope with the international challenges ahead and become a major part of the global economy," Mr. Jarrah said.

Bankers say the region has seen a rapid growth in financial services beyond the Gulf Arab states, traditionally exposed to global markets by surplus revenues accumulated in the heyday of the 1970-1980's oil boom.

UAE urged to open up for foreign investment

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) needs to ease restrictions on foreign investment and open up its oil sector to attract more capital and stimulate its economy, a local bank said Saturday.

The state-controlled Emirates Industrial Bank (EIB) said foreign investment in the UAE was low compared with neighbouring Saudi Arabia and other countries due to curbs on foreign ownership in domestic projects.

The bank said in its October bulletin, obtained ahead of its publication Monday, that the emirates had managed to attract substantial foreign funds into its energy sector, resulting in a sharp

expansion in this industry.

"The stage of development that the UAE economy has reached, in which diversification of the economy away from a dependence on oil and gas has become the principal policy objective, calls for a major shift in favour of acquiring efficiency-seeking foreign investment in the economy," the bank said.

"The first policy area that ought to be examined are the laws disallowing foreign majority ownership over much of the country," it said.

Under the UAE-federal law, foreign investors must have a 51 per cent local partnership in any project in the emirates. This has scared away potential investors

needed for the UAE's drive to expand its industrial base and ease reliance on volatile crude oil earnings.

Experts said relaxing such rules could woo in foreign funds, citing an influx of investment into Dubai's free trade zone of Jebel Ali, where a foreigner can have a 100 per cent ownership. The zone has become one of the biggest free zones in the Middle East, attracting more than 700 companies from around the world, with investment of nearly \$3 billion.

EIB figures showed foreign investment in the UAE, excluding the energy sector, stood at around \$1.3 billion at the end of 1993, only 3.7

per cent of its gross domestic product (GDP). Annual capital inflow averaged only \$60 million between 1987 and 1993.

The study, quoting QN figures, showed foreign investment in Saudi Arabia stood at \$22.3 billion, accounting for 18.4 per cent of the GDP. In Oman, they stood at \$1.7 billion, nearly 14.8 per cent of its GDP.

It also referred to Malaysia, where investment totalled \$25.7 billion, accounting for as high as 46.7 per cent of the GDP.

"From these figures, it is clear that foreign investment has played a smaller role in the UAE economy not only in comparison to Malaysia, but also compared to other oil-producers such as Saudi Arabia and Oman," it said.

It urged the UAE to benefit from what it described as the "fundamental relocation of economic activities in the world."

"For the UAE not to be bypassed and, indeed, to benefit from those developments, it would seem that a reappraisal of its institutional arrangements is an urgent requirement for the country's policy-makers," the study pointed out.

The study also proposed admitting the private sector into the energy industry, which has been controlled by the government on the grounds it is a strategic sector.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1995

By Thomas S. Pearson,
Astrologer, Carroll Wright
Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You have excellent hunches just how to advance today, so make good use of them. Accept the suggestions of others for help with a new project.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Study into new systems which can help you to advance today in your career. Do something to delight the one you love with some unexpected surprise.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Having talks with those whose ideas differ from yours can be educational and informative if you listen quietly so be prepared to learn something new.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You have other talents from which you can profit, so use them and have an added income today. Today is the day to prepare for projects which must be completed.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Get some special talent developed and make a big impression on others. Contact one today who can be of a great help for any new activities.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) It is important you have a family discussion this morning so that you can coordinate your efforts much better in the direction you wish to take.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can express yourself very well today and can make big headway in dealing with others. Make important visits and calls upon those of great influence.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) This is a good day to analyze your assets accurately and know how to add to them intelligently. Be happy with family activities with loved ones this evening.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Plan how to go after your aims in a positive way today and gain them, especially personal ones. Dress appropriate for important occasions.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Try to spend as much time today as you can with a close tie and show much affection. Make a better plan for your activities today.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You understand what is expected of you by your friends and can try to please them more. Get your home neater and more charming today for unexpected guests.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Talk your ideas over today with those who control your affairs and show them that they can be profitable to you and them for the future.

Birthingstone of October:

EU ministers unanimously back 1999 EMU date

VALENCIA, Spain (R) — In a bid to reassure world markets, EU finance ministers and central bankers Saturday unanimously backed a 1999 deadline for switching to a single currency.

"The date is 1999. Confirmation has come without exception. It's very encouraging," a European Commission spokesman said.

But Italian Prime Minister Lamberto Dini, who doubles as finance minister, left before the start of weekend talks in Valencia, saying his presence as a head of government might be misconstrued as an intrusion.

There was no sign that his departure was linked to a dispute that has been raging since he suggested at an informal EU summit in Majorca a week ago that economic and monetary union (EMU) might be put off for a year or two to allow a greater number of countries to qualify.

His comments were widely seen as a reaction to German Finance Minister Theo Waigel's assertion — shared in private by most in the EU — that Italy would not be in shape to join in 1999 because of its bulging public-sector deficit.

The public spat between Rome and Bonn on Italy's prospects shook stock ex-

changes and other currencies sank against the mark because of uncertainty over single-currency plans.

Mr. Dini had dinner with EU ministers and central bankers on Friday night and held a one-hour private meeting with Mr. Waigel which a German spokesman said took place in a good atmosphere.

"We discussed a great number of things which I'm not going to reveal to you," Mr. Dini told Italian reporters before leaving.

"When I spoke of a delay, it was not a wish," Mr. Dini said Friday. "But when you look at Maastricht (provisions), it seems quite difficult that a sufficient number of countries can meet the criteria and therefore be part of a monetary union in 1999."

His suggestions had appeared likely to split ministers at the informal meeting, with Britain agreeing timing may not be the top issue but Germany determined to stick to the date.

"We are doing all we can to meet the date," Mr. Waigel told reporters before the morning session. Asked whether a delay could be ruled out, he replied: "The issue now is to meet the date."

The German spokesman

quoted Mr. Dini as telling Mr. Waigel he had now concluded it was dollar influences and not his colleague's remarks which had prompted the lira's recent falls.

EU states have set themselves the goal of moving towards a single currency by 1999 with all countries that meet stringent economic criteria based on interest rates, debt-to-GDP ratio, public-sector deficits and inflation.

Ensuring EU economies converge towards these criteria is just as important as adhering to the 1999 deadline, the commission spokesman told reporters.

He said the ministers' unanimous backing for the date spelled out in the Maastricht treaty came in response to a plea by commission president Jacques Santer for unequivocal ratification of the timetable and criteria.

Spain, which chairs the Valencia talks in its role as holder of EU's rotating presidency, predicted public backing by key players for the 1999 deadline would reassure markets.

"The market turmoil has certainly taken us by surprise, but this is not a meeting to talk about the markets, it's to talk about the future of Europe and monetary union," Finance Minister Pedro Solbes said as he arrived for the meeting.

"I think the markets should return to calm because various ministers and the European Commission have reiterated that it is essential to stick to the timetable," he told reporters.

India encourages more expatriate funds

BOMBAY (R) — India is encouraging more investments from expatriate Indians to help bolster its reserves because the flow of foreign funds has slowed and rising imports are putting pressure on the rupee, analysts said Saturday.

The rupee has fallen by over seven per cent to about 33.80 to the dollar in the past month, after standing unchanged at 31.37 for nearly two years, partly because of a clutch of oil import bills and debt repayments, dealers said.

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI), the central bank, said Friday it will raise interest rates on term deposits by non-resident Indians (NRIs) to 10 per cent from eight per cent on Oct. 1.

The bank said this was to maintain the "differential between the interest rates on domestic (and NRI) term deposits."

"I think they certainly are pursuing an approach to attract more NRI investments," said Girish Desai, research head with brokerage firm Prabhudas Lilladhar.

"Maybe this was prompted by the fall in the rupee and the slowdown in foreign funds inflow," he said.

The RBI also relaxed the norms for NRI investments in shares to give them easier market access. India has 23 stock exchanges and more than 6,000 listed companies.

"There'll be an infusion of money into the secondary (stock) market," Mr. Desai said. "I feel that's exactly what the RBI was aiming for."

"The RBI don't want to

intervene and support the rupee," he said. "Higher NRI inflows could increase the supply of dollars and ease the pressure on the rupee."

The announcements came as part of the central bank's new credit policy for the second half of fiscal 1995/96.

"The interest rates are very attractive," said Manik Rupan, an industrialist who also acts as a spokesman for NRIs. "Nowhere in the world would you get such high rates."

He said there was the likelihood of NRIs withdrawing money from India because of the rupee's recent slide and uncertainties about the outcome of national elections due next year.

"I think the rate hike will have a calming effect," he said.

Total NRI inflows into bank deposits during fiscal 1994/95, the latest period for which figures are available, were down to \$847 million against \$1.1 billion the year before, the RBI said in its annual report.

Analysts said rising imports were piling up pressure

on the rupee. Imports in the first four months of fiscal 1995/96 (April/March) were up 39 per cent while exports grew by only 29 per cent over the same period a year ago, government figures show.

"There were fears that the foreign reserves may come down," said Kshitiz Prasad, research analyst with brokerage Jamnadas Morarji and Company.

India's gold and foreign exchange reserves fell to \$23.28 billion on Sept. 15, 1995, from a peak of around \$25 billion in April, central bank figures show.

"One way to prop up the foreign reserves is to woo NRI investments," he said.

Foreign investment funds' enthusiasm for stocks has waned.

The average net monthly foreign investment in Indian stocks during the first eight months of calendar 1995 was down at \$100 million against \$220 million in the same period a year ago, figures compiled by the market regulator Securities and Exchange Board of India indicate.

Saudi foreign exchange reserves rise to \$7.8b

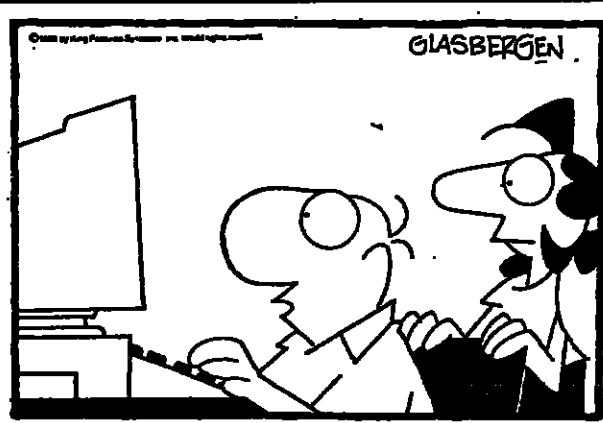
RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) — Aided by higher oil prices and an austerity programme launched earlier this year, Saudi Arabia's foreign exchange reserves rose by 33 per cent in the first half of this year, the Al Eqtisadiyah business daily has reported.

The Arabic-language newspaper said that reserves, stood at \$7.83 billion in June this year, compared to \$5.88

billion in December 1994.

In comparison to the first six months of 1994, when reserves totalled \$6.95 billion, the current level marks a 13 per cent increase, the newspaper reported.

Oil prices on the world market have averaged \$16.5 a barrel so far this year, compared to last year's level of around \$14. Oil exports are Saudi Arabia's main source of income.



Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



THE Daily Crossword by Roger Jurgovan

ACROSS

- Gem weight
- Highest point
- And others: abbr.
- Vacation isle
- Impoverished area
- Thin
- Spectrum
- Just dessert?
- Declines
- Rounded stone
- Corn unit
- Literature
- Nobelist
- Not so much
- Scandinavian land
- Edge
- Slightly open
- Lettuce variety
- Available
- Detonating device: var.
- Blvds.
- Christmas seasons
- Flightless birds
- Fan product
- One skilled in sorcery
- Sibling: abbr.
- Start the pot
- Network monogram
- Took in
- Harris or Silvers
- "Inferno" author
- Simian
- Pallid
- Sale phrase
- Buzzer
- Fiery particle
- Amerind naval base
- Mongrel
- Lane
- Pielet
- Ripens
- Silly ones

DOWN

- Enclose
- Semite
- Coupe accommodation
- Mistreated
- Rat-a—
- Son of Jacob
- Clique
- Knife game: var.
- Insignia
- Before
- Record
- Solo
- Lecherous look
- "— Miserables"
- Small coin
- Sch. subj.
- Secure
- Flow (Br. naval base)
- Interlaced
- Big name in football
- Disposal of odds and ends: Br.
- Sky-blue
- Replace the turf
- Beetle
- Phase
- Poisonous plant
- Transgression
- Film
- Basic
- A Linden
- Certain regimens
- Egg on
- Aqua —
- Islamic prince
- Allocated
- Angers
- terrier
- Wager
- Droop

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

CHAP IMAGE HOPE
OOZE CAROL ELLA
ALOT ELENA LEAR
LEVIED SESSIONS
TAT TAX
SATIRE IRIS POE
AERONAUTICS RUN
IRON TAD PINT
NIP OPALESCENCE
TEE ASHY TOTTER
SHY EMU
PELLUCID RANGER
ALIA HAUTE IOTA
LINT IGLOO ABUT
LADY COLTS SINE

business daily beat

A review of economic news from the Arabic press

Insurance market seen 'collapsing' with 11 new companies

THE INSURANCE market will collapse soon because the entry of 11 new insurance companies to the market will result in its total destruction, says Nazih Al Abd Hussein, president of the Jordanian Federation of Insurance Companies. Mr. Hussein indicated that the insurance sector as it stands now is in a real crisis, "so how would the situation be if 11 new companies enter it (the market)?" Mr. Hussein said that the bigger losers would be the new companies because they will lack the qualified expertise and cadres which are not available in sufficient numbers in the insurance sector.

Mohammad Saleh Jaber, an economic analyst, attributed the sudden large investment in the insurance sector to disputes and "personal reasons" between the founders of new companies and the managements of established companies. He defended his view by noting that most of the new founders were employees of the companies that are currently in business. Dr. Jaber indicated that the established companies suffer from weak operations because he considered a company's JD 1.5 million in annual premiums as being that of commission business and not an insurance business. He stressed that the new insurance companies will undoubtedly founder as a population of four million people does not need that large a number of insurance companies.

Ahmad Hussein Khalil, manager of the Jerusalem Insurance Company said that the Jordanian insurance market cannot absorb this high number of insurance companies. He stressed that when the new companies start operations, insurance premiums will sink to uneconomic levels which, in turn, would affect the quality of service. Mr. Khalil did not expect the Islamic insurance companies to have any negative effect on other companies as they (the Islamic) will take a position similar to the Islamic bank among other banks. Dr. Jaber noted that the Islamic insurance companies were justified as they would fulfill the needs of a sector of a society that favours dealing with such institutions (Al Dastour).

UNIVERSAL HOTEL for Tourism PLC (UHT) has revised its studies for its new hospitality and tourism related projects. UHT shall build a 200-bedroom hotel at the western gate of Amman-7th Circle area, to be classified as 4-star hotel according to Ministry of Tourism standards. UHT does not intend to buy any share of Turino Hotel, and the owner of Turino Hotel has announced having no interest in selling or leasing any parts of Turino Hotel or any of its outlets, categorically and irrevocably. The initial project is capitalised at JD 6 million, and is expected to be doubled within 2 to 3 years, when the 2nd phase starts. The founders' list is being rearranged to contain a list of participants, including the Arab Investment Company (owned by the Arab Jordan Investment Bank), the Arab Bank, and Sweifiyyeh Hotel Company (Turino Hotel), and a group of other businessmen.

UHT shall agree with an international company for operation and management. Raja F. Halazon, the chairman of the Founder's Committee of UHT, said UHT will execute three projects: (1) Hotel with 200 bedrooms/390 beds and amenities; (2) Purchase small land in Sweifiyyeh; (3) Purchase lands adjacent to Amman, 10-15 kilometres from the 7th Circle, to prepare for building a small town/village with a new Mediterranean concept, called "The Cellular Mall."

Arab firm seeks to finance Gulf chemical projects

DAMMAM, Saudi Arabia (AFP) — An official Arab oil investment firm has said it was seeking to finance petrochemical projects in the Gulf as most regional states have announced plans to expand their chemical industry.

The Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation (API-CORP), owned by the governments of 10 Arab oil producers, said it was involved in negotiations with regional countries to contribute to funding such projects.

"APICORP is currently holding negotiations to participate in financing key petrochemical projects in the Gulf. Such negotiations will hopefully produce results this year," it said in its annual 1994 report.

The Damman-based company did not elaborate on the projects but Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil producer and exporter, has been involved in large ventures to boost its petrochemical production capacity to diversify its economy.

Kuwait and Qatar have similar projects while Oman has announced plans to build its first petrochemical complex at a cost of around \$700 million.

In the United Arab Emirates (UAE), the second biggest oil producer in the region, officials said this year they would press ahead with a \$1.5 billion venture to set up the country's first chemical industry.

APICORP said it was a shareholder in several energy companies, including the Saudi Ibn Zahr, which is planning to expand its output of MTBE, a complex substance used in the production of unleaded petrol. Expansions will boost production by 100,000 tonnes to 1.2 million tonnes per year.

The report said APICORP extended around \$180 million in loans in 1994 to finance projects in the region and worldwide at a total cost of \$2.22 billion. Total loans reached \$750 million by the end of 1994.

Its assets grew by 3.4 per cent to \$1.31 billion in 1994 but net earnings plunged to \$31.7 million from \$48.2 million due to a decline in international equity prices caused by higher interest rates.

The report said expenses rose to \$12.1 million from \$11.2 million and net income for 1994 stood at \$19.6 million. The company's board recommended a cash dividend for shareholders of \$20 million, equivalent to last year's dividend, it said.

APICORP, which invests in oil projects and bonds worldwide, was set up in 1975 by Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Iraq, Libya, Algeria, Egypt, Syria and the UAE.

He said that demand for electricity was outstripping supply by seven per cent a year in the region, with China alone requiring 10,000 to 15,000 megawatts of new capacity annually to meet economic growth forecasts.

Most of the power equipment will have to be imported, added Mr. Keldhofer, who was attending a regional power-industry conference in Singapore.

Mr. Keldhofer told AFP that worldwide demand for new power capacity was forecast to reach 100,000 megawatts by 2000, generating orders worth \$70 billion to \$80 billion in new equipment, half of it to be sold in Asia.

He said the Zurich-based ABB, ranked 38th on the Fortune 500 list, was aiming for annual worldwide revenues from power projects

of \$15 billion to \$16 billion by 2000, from the current \$10 billion.

The ABB group, which employs nearly 208,000 people in 1,000 companies worldwide, had a total turnover of \$29.7 billion and net profit of \$760 million in 1994.

Power generation and transmission orders accounted for almost half the total revenues of the group, which also has industrial, financial services, transportation and other activities.

ABB has become a major force in the region's power market, specialising in comprehensive projects from design to equipment supply and plant operation.

It is building a mammoth 1,300 megawatt combined cycle power plant in Lumur, Malaysia, the country's largest, and early this year completed a similar 1,300 megawatt plant in Indonesia.

The Malaysian and Indonesian plants are the third and fifth largest plants of their kind in the world, Mr. Keldhofer said.

Combined cycle plants are increasingly popular in Asia because of their low cost and short installation periods, an ABB spokesman said. The process involves gas-fired turbines which power a generator and produce exhaust that is used to create steam to drive another turbine, maximizing plant efficiency.

Oman plans more bank mergers

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Two more Omani banks are planning to merge to benefit from government incentives aimed at creating stronger financial institutions, bankers have said.

The Oman Bank for Agriculture and Fisheries (OBAF) and the Bank of Oman for Development (BOD) have been locked in negotiations for nearly four months, they said.

BOD general manager Murata Fadel confirmed a report in the Omani daily Al Watan that the two banks were likely to merge before the end of 1995.

"What Al Watan newspaper said about the merger between the two banks is true but we cannot disclose details before a decree from the Sultan (Qaboos) is issued," Mr. Fadel told AFP by telephone from Muscat. "We have been negotiating for

three to four months and the merger will hopefully take place before the end of the year."

Mr. Fadel said the two banks did not have financial problems but that the merger was intended to create a stronger banking unit to face competition and finance increasing projects emerging from reforms in Oman.

Bankers said the merger would be the biggest in Oman's banking history and would produce one of the largest banks in terms of capital.

OBAF has a paid-up capital of 19 million Omani riyals (\$49.4 million) and BOD's capital is 10 million riyals (\$26 million).

The two banks, both joint-stock ventures owned by the government and the private sector, are engaged mainly in financing arm projects.

"We have had an intention

to merge for a long time. We were encouraged by economic growth and government support for merging banks," Mr. Fadel said.

It will be the third bank merger in Oman since the government introduced incentives in 1992 to encourage its banks to set up larger financial units and end the number of commercial banks, which now total 20.

Officials have said they would like to see the number cut to half given the relatively small population of around 2.4 million.

The first mergers involved the Oman Commercial Bank with the Omani Al-Masraf Bank, and the Bank of Muscat with Al Ahli Bank.

Two other banks, the Oman Arab Bank and the Oman-European Bank, reported last year they had been involved in negotiations for merger but there has been no word on the outcome.

Central bank incentives for merging banks include an exemption of taxes on profits for five years and a deposit of 10 million riyals (\$26 million) for 10 years at an interest rate

of as low as three per cent. They were part of overall bank reforms to ensure all commercial banks meet worldwide requirements by the Bank for International Settlement (BIS) on capital adequacy, the ratio between shareholders' equity and assets.

The reforms required banks to raise their capital to at least \$26 million each. The banking measures run parallel with large-scale economic reforms to revive the economy after it was hurt by weak oil prices.

Asian power equipment market may reach \$40 billion by 2000

SINGAPORE (AFP) — Asia's thirst for electricity to drive its growth will create a market of up to \$40 billion for new power equipment by 2000, an official of ABB ASEA Brown Boveri Ltd. has said.

"Asia's rapid growth presents both an unprecedented opportunity and an enormous challenge to the world's leading power systems suppliers," said Rolf Keldhofer, who heads the Swiss-Swedish group's gas turbine and combined cycle power-plant operations.

He said that demand for electricity was outstripping supply by seven per cent a year in the region, with China alone requiring 10,000 to 15,000 megawatts of new capacity annually to meet economic growth forecasts.

Most of the power equipment will have to be imported, added Mr. Keldhofer, who was attending a regional power-industry conference in Singapore.

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JORDAN FINANCIAL MARKET				
HOUSING BANK CENTER AMMAN - SWEIFIYYEH				
TELEPHONE: 507171 / 507179				
ORGANIZED MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SATURDAY 30/09/1995				
COMPANY'S NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE TRADED JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CHANGING PRICE
ARAB BANK BIC	12900	3041805	242.500	243.000
JORDAN NATIONAL BANK	12716	56638	4.530	4.470
MIDDLE EAST INVESTMENT BANK	38713	45710	1.250	1.290
INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK	3811	750	2.400	2.410
THE HOUSING BANK	2250	11978	5.300	5.300
JORDAN KAWAT BANK	2707	6321	2.370	2.380
JORDAN GULF BANK	28393	27492	1.250	1.210
JORDAN ISLAND BANK	1946	1664	3.750	3.740
BUSINESS BANK	1900	6671	3.640	3.590
JORDAN INVESTMENT & FINANCE BANK	499	1086	3.780	3.780
KEYT ELMAL SAVINGS/INVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	250	842	3.370	3.370
JORDAN BANK FOR INVESTMENT	18990	17721	1.950	1.950
MILAN/ALPHA INVESTMENT BANK	2618	4136	1.570	1.590
BANKS SECTOR	324889	3475457	INDEX NUMBER: 153.85	CHANGE: +0.20%
JORDAN FRENCH INSURANCE	1100	2972	2.700	2.700
HOLY LAND INSURANCE	433	1005	2.400	2.320
PHILADELPHIA INSURANCE	50	230	4.600	4.600
INSURANCE SECTOR	1583	4207	INDEX NUMBER: 132.51	CHANGE: -0.13%
JORDANIAN ELECTRIC POWER	62851	103567	1.670	1.650
JORDAN HOTEL & TOURISM	11618	11618	8.500	8.500
ARAB INTERNATIONAL HOTELS	1030	6074	6.000	5.900
JORDAN NATIONAL SHIPPING LINES	850	2395	2.700	2.700
NATIONAL PORTFOLIO SECURITIES	1012	2314	2.070	2.090
REAL ESTATE INVESTMENT	9050	5870	1.400	1.410
JORDAN INTERNATIONAL TRADING CENTER	390	456	1.200	1.160
MACHINERY EQUIP. RENTING & MAINTENANCE	500	335	7.000	6.870
JORDAN PRESS FOUNDATION / ALAA	500	4884	9.760	9.000
JORDAN PAPER & PUBLISHING / AD-DUSTOUR	2600	2400	7.500	7.600
UNITED MIDDLE EAST & CONDOOMORE HOTELS	3570	2400	2.400	2.380
SANJA PRIVATE UNIVERSITY	10430	14033	1.330	1.350
UNION LAND DEVELOPMENT CORP.	16900	18905	1.100	1.090
SERVICES SECTOR	103763	188227	INDEX NUMBER: 128.31	CHANGE: -0.56%
THE JORDAN CEMENT FACTORIES	11921	43051	3.620	3.620
JORDAN PHOSPHATE MINES	480	1437	3.000	3.010
JORDAN PETROLEUM REFINERY	5140	48737	9.420	9.450
THE INDUSTRIAL, COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	2741	3243	3.240	3.240
ARAB PHARMACEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	3704	18129	4.930	4.990
JORDAN CERAMIC INDUSTRIES	450	2691	5.980	5.980
JORDAN DRYING	2000	4900	2.400	2.480
THE JORDAN TYPES MANUFACTURING	1450	3011	2.100	2.100
JORDAN PAPER & CARDBOARD FACTORIES	1000	3762	3.800	3.990
THE PUBLIC MINTING	850	2450	2.930	3.000
SEWING & WEAVING	1000	1810	1.820	1.810
RAPIA INDUSTRIES	2874	2874	2.280	2.310
DAR AL DAWA DEVELOPMENT & INVESTMENT	800	5860	7.400	7.250
ARAB ALUMINUM INDUSTRY	800	4245	5.300	6.300
ALYEMER & SONS	44290	10447	2.190	2.200
ARAB PAPER CONVERTING & TRADING	74850	107287	1.420	1.430
NATIONAL INDUSTRIES	14050	15733	1.090	1.100
INTERMEDIATE PETRO-CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES	500	700	1.900	1.900
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	2460	572	4.300	4.300
NATIONAL CABLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	200	292	1.450	1.460
JORDAN SULPHO-CHEMICALS	3198	6708	2.130	2.100
ARAB CENTER FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	200	232	3.190	3.190
UNIVERSAL MOORE INDUSTRIES	900	2880	1.670	1.660
JORDAN INDUSTRIAL RESOURCES CO.	2250	4485	2.000	1.990
JORDAN NEW CARBON COMPANY	1350	2214	1.640	1.640
INTERNATIONAL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	5448	7748	1.410	1.420
UNION CHEMICAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRY	33022	715504	2.020	2.020
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR	517458	1041708	INDEX NUMBER: 124.68	CHANGE: -0.07%
GRAND TOTAL	947693	4109599	INDEX NUMBER: 159.76	CHANGE: -0.06%
NO. OF TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET: 390220				
VALUE TRADED IN PARALLEL MARKET: 398522				

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Felicie Ballanger carries the French flag on a victory lap after breaking her own world record in the 500 metre time trial event at the World Cycling Championships (Reuters photo)

French cyclists set records at championship

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Marion Clignet and Felicia Ballanger, both of France, broke world records at the World Cycling Championships on Friday. Four records have fallen at the competition in as many days.

Clignet, 31, broke the mark in qualifying for the 3,000-metre individual pursuit, finishing in 3 minutes 36.227 seconds. Clignet broke the mark of 3:37.347 set in 1993 by Rebecca Twigg of the United States. Antonella Bellutti of Italy also broke the record with a time of 3:36.836.

Twigg came in third in the qualifying race with a time of 3:39.321.

Later, Ballanger, 24, broke her own world record in the finals of the women's 500-metre time trial, coming in at 34.017 seconds. Her previous mark, set in 1994, was 34.474. Ballanger also won the gold in the 200-metre sprint on Wednesday.

In another race, Australia, with a time of 3:05.010, beat Ukraine in the finals of the men's 4,000-metre team pursuit race. The U.S. team of Zach Comrad, Dirk Copeland, Mariano Friedick and Matt Hamon took home the bronze with a time of 4:12.530.

Australian cyclist Shane Kelly broke the record for the fastest kilometre on Tues-

day with a time of 1:00.613. Curt Harnett, of Canada, broke the record for the 200-metre sprint on Thursday with a time of 9.865 seconds. One of three cyclists to crack the 10-second barrier. On

Friday, Harnett posted a time of 10.410 to advance to the semifinals in the event, edging German cyclist Jens Fiedler.

The Cycling World Championships started at the Luis

Carlos Galan Velodrome in Bogota on Tuesday. Organisers predicted Bogota's altitude, 2,600 metres above sea level, would help cyclists set new marks in many events.

The competition, widely

considered the most important yearly cycling event after the Tour de France, moves outside the capital Bogota to Colombia's eastern Cordillera Mountain range on Oct. 4 for the start of road races.



Australia's Rodney McGee (left) is hugged by teammates Tim O'Shannessy (centre) and Bradley McGee after their

4K pursuit team won the gold medal at the World Cycling Championships in Bogota September 29 (Reuters photo)

South Korea follows Japan with 2002 bid

ZURICH, Switzerland (AP) — South Korea submitted its bid to host the 2002 World Cup finals Friday, stressing its superior soccer pedigree over rival Japan and even vowing to win the tournament.

A top-level delegation from Seoul also played the political card, hinting that the tournament would be a chance to unite South and North Korea — at least temporarily — for a celebration of soccer.

"As a people who truly love football, it would be our privilege and joy to host the greatest event of the world's most popular game," said South Korean President Kim Young Sam in a letter to soccer's governing body FIFA.

The presentation of the bid to FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter came one day after Japan promised the "biggest and best" ever World Cup finals.

Japan is regarded as the favourite, although the Korean bid is believed to be gaining ground.

Argentinian soccer star Diego Maradona has been on tour in South Korea and will make his debut appearance in a friendly Saturday after a 15-month international ban for drug use — a move calculated to raise the profile of Seoul's bid. Korean officials are also lobbying their case with Argentine President Carlos Menem during his visit to the country.

FIFA's 21-man executive committee will make the final choice next June 1. Seoul successfully resisted efforts to cut short the bidding protest

in the hope that time is on its side.

Whereas the Japanese bid concentrated on high-tech facilities, South Korea's presentation entitled "dream for all," focussed more on the sport itself.

"We do not think Korea's football (soccer) heritage can be ignored," said Koo Pyong-Hwi, chairman of the bidding committee.

"We believe that in deciding the hosting of Asia's first ever World Cup, an Asian country which has qualified for the World Cup finals an unprecedented four times should be given some special qualification," Koo told a news conference.

South Korea has made it to three straight World Cup finals. Last year in the United States, the team thrilled audiences with a remarkable 2-2 result against Spain and a spirited 2-3 outcome against soccer powerhouse Germany.

"We do not just intend to sit back and be generous hosts in 2002," Koo said. "The bad news for the rest of the football world is that we also plan to win the first World Cup of the 21st century."

Japan has never advanced to a World Cup final, although the quality of its soccer has improved dramatically since the introduction of the professional J-League in 1993. South Korea has had a professional league since 1983.

"We also hope that FIFA will consider the fact that a world cup on the Korean peninsula could be an important factor in promoting re-

conciliation between South and North Korea," Koo said.

The two countries, normally bitter enemies, formed a united team at the World Youth Championship in 1991.

Koo admitted that the Seoul government had not yet approached North Korea to discuss a joint effort. But he said that a stadium in the north's capital, Pyongyang was the second biggest in the world and so would likely be used if the two countries did team up.

a five-man FIFA team will inspect facilities late October and early November.

In the increasingly commercialised world of soccer, money is likely to be just as important as sporting qualifications in the final choice.

Koo said if South Korea got the finals, it would donate the profits — estimated at least \$78 million — to international soccer.

Japan made a similar proposal Thursday, although gave no estimate on the likely net revenue.

The 2002 games are likely to be the most profitable ever. FIFA was recently offered 1 billion for the marketing and broadcast rights of the 2002 finals. Television rights fetched less than

\$100 million for the 1994 finals.

Japan has pledged to spend \$5.2 billion to improve facilities, compared with South Korea's \$1.3 billion.

Construction costs are higher in Japan. Indeed the high cost of living in Japan, including expensive hotels, might count in South Korea's favour.

Seoul has proposed 16 host cities, with 11 new stadiums and five renovated ones.

Japan's bid, called "sharing our goal with the world," focused heavily on its technological supremacy. It proposed building huge dome-shaped screens in stadiums to transmit three-dimensional television images of games in other venues, giving spectators the impression of being at the match itself.

Both Korea and Japan have experience in organising prestige international events. Seoul hosted the successful 1988 Olympics and will also host the Asian Games in 2002.

Political and commercial support for both bids is huge, with Japanese corporate powers like Nissan Motor Co and Mitsubishi Corp., set against South Korean giant Hyundai.

Olajuwon withdraws from one-on-one duel

NEW YORK (AP) — Hakeem Olajuwon pulled out of Saturday night's one-on-one contest with the fellow American National Basketball Association star Shaquille O'Neal on Friday because of a bad back, and the pay-per-view television show from Atlantic City was cancelled.

The announcement came after Olajuwon was examined Friday morning. "The injury is a bilateral sprain in the lower back," said Dr. Francis Pflum, an orthopaedic specialist who checked out the Houston Rockets centre in Atlantic City.

"I have been looking forward to this one-on-one challenge against Shaq because it gave us a chance to show the fans our individual skills," said Olajuwon, who described himself as "extremely disappointed."

Olajuwon injured his back about a week ago while in London to promote the NBA's upcoming McDonald's Championship, but his condition was improving until Thursday, according to Bruce Binkow of Management Plus Enterprises, which is organising the one-on-one event.

In New York on Thursday afternoon, Olajuwon

appeared healthy, laughing and joking with reporters during a news conference with O'Neal to discuss the contest. He did not mention the back injury and said he was eagerly anticipating playing against O'Neal.

The event, with \$1 million in prize money at stake, has been promoted heavily and was to have included two undercard matchups — Lakers guard Nick Van Exel vs. Nets guard Kenny Anderson and Rookies Kevin Garnett, and fifth selection in last June's NBA draft right out of high school, vs. Joe Smith, the first player picked.

The promoters said Friday morning that efforts to get a suitable replacement were unsuccessful, and rescheduling the event was "virtually impossible" because NBA training camps will be opening soon.

O'Neal and Olajuwon were to have played 10 2-minute rounds worth \$100,000 apiece, basically following NBA rules but with a 12-second shot clock and a 10-metre 6-point line added. It was to have been the first on-court meeting between the two centres since Olajuwon and the Rockets swept O'Neal and the Orlando Magic in the NBA finals

Anand holds Kasparov to a draw

NEW YORK (AP) — Viswanathan Anand held tieholder Garry Kasparov to a draw Friday in the 12th game of the Professional Chess Association World Championship.

With eight games remaining in the 20 game contest, Kasparov leads 6 points to 5.

Anand lost the last two games in the contest and defended for much of Friday's battle before the draw.

"He had to stop the bleeding and he did that," said American grandmaster Yasser Seirawan.

Despite avoiding a hat trick of losses, a subdued Anand told reporters his standing in the match was "not brilliant."

"I'm just taking it as it goes along. They'll be a lot more turns I hope," Anand said.

When play began, the moves followed the Ruy Lopez opening which Kasparov used to score a crushing victory in the 10th game Tuesday.

Playing with the disadvan-

tage of the black pieces, Anand chose a quieter defense but drifted into a position where Kasparov maintained a slow but enduring advantage.

Anand traded off the queens and both sets of bishops to ease the pressure but Kasparov was able to penetrate a rook deep into his position on the 24th move.

With Anand facing possible defeat, Kasparov missed a trick on the 31st move, where Anand sacrificed a pawn to trade down and reach a drawn end game.

The 13th game is scheduled for Monday with Anand playing white.

The winner of the contest will be the first player to score 10 points. A win scores one point, a draw nets a half. In the event of a 10-10 tie, Kasparov retains his title.

Kasparov, 32, of Russia, has held the world title since 1985. Anand, 25, comes from the southern Indian city of Madras.



Garry Kasparov

Gonzales wins judo lightweight title

CHIBA, Japan (AFP) — Driulis Gonzalez-Morales clinched Cuba's second world judo title when she defeated Jung Sun-Yong of South Korea to win the woman's lightweight class here on Saturday.

Neither could take a decisive point, but Gonzalez-Morales, who had to be satisfied with a bronze two years ago in Hamilton, Canada, pulled down the Hiroshima Asian Games winner onto the mat two minutes 53 seconds into the 56kg final.

Danielle Zangrando of Brazil edged past Isabel Fernandez of Spain and Filipa Cavalleri of Portugal outclassed Marie Isabelle Lomba of Belgium, both by a decision victory, in the third place playoffs.

Defending champions Nicola Fairbrother of Britain was knocked out of the event losing to Jung in the quarterfinals, while Barcelona Olympic 52kg winner Noriko Mizoguchi failed to clear the first hurdle earlier in the day.

Daisuke Hideshima, who suffered a bitter defeat at Hamilton losing in the last five seconds of a quarter-final match, made it a glorious day winning the men's lightweight division.

Hideshima gained a narrow 2-1 split decision victory over Kwak Dae-Sung of South Korea in the 71kg final, giving judo's originator Japan only its second gold medal.

Diego Brambilla of Italy and American James Pedro finished in third, beating Sebastian Rafael Dias Pereira of Brazil and Danny Kingston of Britain, respectively.

Marie Claire Restoux captured France's second gold medal here when she immobilised Carolina Iariani of Argentina to win the women's featherweight title in 3:14.

Defending champion Legna Verdecia Rodriguez of Cuba crashed to a surprise defeat to Iariani in the semifinals, but managed to save the bronze medal beating Barcelona Olympic champion Almudena Munos of Spain.

The other bronze went to Britain's Sharon Rendle who beat Wang Jin of China.

Udo Quellmalz of Germany, the 1991 world champion and bronze medalist in 1993, regained the men's featherweight title beating defending champion Yukimasa Nakamura.

The German took a yuko with one minute left on the clock, putting heavy pressure on the Japanese.

Nakamura, desperately tried to turn the wave round, but Quellmalz retaliated with a minor inner reaping to finish off the struggling Japanese with 13 seconds to go.

It was Germany's first title in Chiba.

Ngugi confirms comeback Sunday

EDINBURGH, Scotland (AP) — After several threats to pull out, five-time world cross country champion John Ngugi said Friday he would make his comeback in Sunday's Great Caledonian Run.

"This is the beginning," he said. "In three or four weeks I will be back at my very best."

Ngugi said earlier in the week that he wasn't sure about his fitness for the 10,000 metre race and feared the field might be too strong.

Ngugi's agent John Bicourt — a former international runner — said the Kenyan decided Thursday to run after training in London.

"I didn't have to exert any pressure at all to get John to run," Bicourt said. "Back

home everyone was telling him he was up against a great international field. That has never been true."

"The Caledonian Run is a good starting point for him," Bicourt added.

The 33-year-old Ngugi was suspended in February 1993 by track's world governing body for refusing to take a doping test at his home in Kenya. The ban was lifted by the International Amateur Athletics Federation (IAAF) in May citing "exceptional circumstances."

Ngugi, the 1988 Olympic 5,000 metres champion, won the world cross country title four times from 1986 through 1989 and added his fifth in 1992.

NBA to lock out referees

NEW YORK (R) — The National Basketball Association said Friday that it will lock out members of the National Basketball Referees Association starting Sunday and had already hired replacement refs.

The announcement came after the union rejected a no-strike, no-lockout agreement that the league said it would accept while a new collective bargaining agreement with the referees continues to be negotiated.

The last collective bargaining agreement between the league and referees expired on September 1.

The NBA has offered a 10 per cent salary increase for the 1995-1996 season and an overall 30 per cent increase over five years. The officials are asking for a 70 per cent increase for next season.

The league said that replacement officials have been hired to attend a training camp that will open October 1. They will officiate all NBA games starting with the first pre-season games October 12.

A no-strike, no-lockout agreement with the players enabled the 1994-95 season to be played without interruption.

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMMAM HIRSHI
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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 5 7 ♣ 10 8 7 6 5 ♠ A J 9 2

Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

Q.2 - Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 9 7 2 ♠ A 10 4 ♠ Q 6 3 ♠ J 8

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.3 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ K J 5 2 ♠ 8 5 0 0 5 4 ♠ 8 5 4

The bidding has proceeded:

WEST NORTH EAST SOUTH

1 ♠ 1♣ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.4 - Both vulnerable, as South

you hold:

♠ 4 ♠ K Q J 9 8 2 ♠ 7 4 ♠ A J 3

The bidding has proceeded:

SOUTH WEST NORTH EAST

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass 3 ♠ Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.5 - Both vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠ 7 3 ♠ Q A Q J 9 7 6 5 ♠ K J 3 2

The bidding has proceeded:

NORTH EAST SOUTH WEST

1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass

2 ♠ Pass ?

What do you bid now?

Q.6 - As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠ 10 5 ♠ 8 5 ♠ Q A Q J 9 8 3 ♠ 8 8 7

Partner opens the bidding one no trump. What do you respond?

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Formula One World Champion Michael Schumacher (centre) chats with technical director

of team Benetton Ross Brawn (left) and race engineer Pat Simmons during a practice ses-

sion for the European Grand Prix (Reuters photo)

Schumacher seeks to lock up title at revamped Nuerburgring

NUERBURGRING. Germany (AP) — In the rolling hills of Eifel, one hour away from his hometown, Michael Schumacher can all but clinch his second Formula One title at the European Grand Prix on the revamped Nuerburgring Sunday.

There are four races left in the Grand Prix season and Schumacher leads Damon Hill by 17 points in the drivers' World Championship standings.

A victory here Sunday would give Schumacher another 10 points and an almost unbeatable lead before the season ends with two races in Japan and the last Grand Prix in Australia.

Hill is not ready to concede the title, however.

"I won't give up the fight until there is no chance left. I realise it is going to be a real challenge, but I am still motivated," said Hill, who appears to have a faster car in his Williams-Renault.

In Friday's first qualifying session, the two Williams-Renault cars were faster than Schumacher's Benetton-Renault.

David Coulthard, who gained his first Grand Prix victory Sunday in Estoril, Portugal, led the field with a time of one minute, 18.738 seconds. Hill, Coulthard's

teammate, posted a time of 1:18.972 for second place.

Schumacher, who is looking for another world title to crown his relationship with Benetton-Renault, was third in 1:19.470.

Coulthard, whose contract has not been renewed, said he would not willingly allow Hill to finish ahead of him.

"Winning in Portugal has made me all the more determined to follow it up — I am aiming for nothing less than pole position and another win," said the Scotsman, who is third in the standings, 16 points behind Hill.

Schumacher is switching to Ferrari next season and his strategy for the last four races is likely to be trying to finish in the top six, in the points range.

The Formula One is returning to the Nuerburgring after 10 years. Only two of the current drivers have raced Formula One here — Gerhard Berger and Martin Brundle.

The circuit has been shortened, renovated and made a lot safer. The old circuit was fast and dangerous and it was there that Niki Lauda barely survived a fiery crash in 1976.

The Formula One license for the "ring" was not renewed until its reconstruction was completed in 1983.

Since 1985, the German Prix has been taking place at Hockenheim.

The new 4.542-kilometre course is described by drivers as very safe, but somewhat boring, medium-fast. The vedol chicane also has been slowed down, removing one of the biggest challenges of the circuit.

"It is less of a challenge now," Schumacher said. "We have to take every measure to prevent bad accidents, but I am not happy with the new chicane."

Schumacher, who won the F3 German championship here in 1990, said the smooth surface should suit his Benetton-Renault.

He is looking for his second victory on home soil, after becoming the first German to win a German Grand Prix, at Hockenheim in July. Schumacher was born and raised in Kerpen, about 100 kilometres away from Nuerburgring.

Berger, in a Ferrari, had the fourth fastest time of 1:19.821. Eddie Irvine, driving a Jordan-Peugeot, was fifth in 1:20.488, while Jean Alesi in the second Ferrari was sixth in 1:20.521.

Alesi and Berger are moving to Benetton next season, while Irvine is joining Schumacher at Ferrari.



Striker Garbassi Akacha (left) of Algerian side Ain Melilla evades the sliding tackle of Zefraoui from Egyptian side Mahalla, during an Arab Cup soccer match in Sousse. September 29, Mahalla beat Ain Melilla 1-0 (Reuters photo)

Federation not pursuing bribery charge against German coach

BONN (R) — The German Soccer Federation (DFB) admitted on Friday there was some basis to bribery allegations against second division coach Hannes Bongartz, but said it would not be pursuing the case.

Former international goalkeeper Uli Stein caused a furore by alleging Bongartz offered him 25,000 marks (\$17,500) to throw a Bundesliga match at the climax of the 1986/87 season while Stein was playing for Hamburg and Bongartz was training Kaiserslautern.

Kaiserslautern needed to win to qualify for a UEFA Cup place but Stein said he

rejected the offer, and Hamburg won 4-0.

"The allegations against Bongartz are grounded in fact," the DFB disciplinary committee said in a statement.

"The investigation has yielded a suspicion of misconduct. However, because the time limit on such cases has elapsed in the intervening period, a disciplinary procedure against Bongartz is ruled out."

Stein, himself often a controversial figure, and Bongartz, who now coaches second division Duisburg, both gave versions to the DFB of a conversation they had in a Hamburg hotel.

While Stein, 40, who now plays for second division Arminia Bielefeld, insisted Bongartz had made a serious attempt to bribe him, Bongartz dismissed his own remarks as "banter and small talk."

"The two versions differ on the seriousness of the bribery attempt," DFB disciplinary panel Chairman Horst Hilpert said.

The DFB had warned Stein he himself faced disciplinary action if his allegations proved to be unfounded.

In the last major German bribery scandal, more than 50 players, two coaches and six club officials were punished in 1971 for fixing games.

British coach jailed

CARDIFF (R) — Britain's former Olympic swimming coach Paul Hickson was jailed on Wednesday for 17 years for raping two of his teenage proteges and indecently assaulting others.

Jubilant relatives of the girls shouted "yes" and sobbed with relief as the chief British coach at the 1988 Seoul Games was jailed by Judge John Prosser, who called his crimes "filthy and dreadful."

Prosser said Hickson, coach to an Olympic team that scooped three gold medals, had ruined the lives of

young girls.

One of his rape victims had become "a pathetic creature" after the attacks.

Hickson, a svengali-like figure whose victims were too terrified to speak out for fear of blighting their careers, was accused of assaulting them over 15 years at training camps.

The court heard that Hickson, 48, pressurised and threatened them into keeping silent. He claimed in court they were adolescents fantasising about him.

He absconded to France

before the trial, but was arrested when he returned secretly to Britain to spend Christmas with his wife and eight-year-old daughter.

"This is a classic case of a person in authority abusing their position," said prosecution Lawyer Wyn Williams during the trial in the Welsh capital Cardiff.

The verdict prompted pledges of a review by Britain's Amateur Swimming Federation. Chief executive David Sparkes promised to tighten vetting and supervision procedures.

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Jordan Electricity Authority declares the issue of Tender No. 128 / 95 for Telecommunication Systems for Jordan - Egypt Interconnection. The tender include the following equipment: power line carrier (PLC), teleprotection, private automatic exchanges, battery chargers, hot line telephone consoles and communication management system, on turn key basis. This tender will be financed through a loan obtained by each of Arab Republic of Egypt and the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan from the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development. Contractors who are interested to participate in this tender can obtain the tender documents from the Procurement Dept. at JEA main building located at Swafia, Zahran Street against a non-refundable amount of \$250 for one volume. Bids are to be submitted to the secretary of tendering committee at the above address for both of the technical and financial offers accompanied by a bid bond equal to 2 per cent of the total value of the bid. Submission of bids should be no later than 10 O'clock in the morning, Amman time on Monday, December 4th, 1995, and shall be opened publicly at 12 O'clock noon on the said date. The bids should be valid for 150 days from the closing date. Tenderers are requested to submit any questions in writing or by cable to reach the Jordan Electricity Authority not later than two weeks before the closing date. Response shall be addressed to the specified tenderer's address.

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The Ministry of Water and Irrigation / The Jordan Valley Authority announces its intention to auction the lease of plots of land for tourism investment projects on the Eastern Shore of the Dead Sea / Suweimeh. Those who wish to participate in the auction are invited to contact the Ministry of Water and Irrigation / Jordan Valley Authority - The Department of Land and Rural Development as of September 30, 1995, to obtain a copy of the auction terms according to the following:
- Two plots of land, temporary numbers 1 & 2 basin 39 (Farshat Ain Ghazal). These lie directly on the sea shore to the north of the Dead Sea Spa Hotel. Area of each plot is about 64 dunums.
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- Last date for obtaining auction terms is fixed on Saturday, October 7th, 1995.
- A site group visit will be arranged for the bidders on Monday, October 9th, 1995.
- Offers shall be deposited in the bids box located at the Jordan Valley Authority / Department of Land and Rural Development no later than 2 p.m. on Monday October 25, 1995.
- The Jordan Valley Authority will advertise the availability of lease for the plots of land within the Suweimeh development area located to the east and west of the main road as soon as the studies are completed by the Engineering Consultant commissioned by the Jordan Valley Authority.
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Secretary General
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Eng. Hashim Ashboul

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6.2% real GDP growth seen in '95 - Jardaneh

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan, which is implementing an economic restructuring programme agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), expects an annual economic growth of 6.2 per cent in real terms in 1995, Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh said Saturday.

The Finance Minister, addressing the annual congress of the Inter-Arab Chamber of Commerce (see page 9), said the Kingdom's economy was performing well, with merchandise exports, tourism revenues and expatriate remittances on the increase.

Mr. Jardaneh, who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, to formally open the congress, also affirmed that the government would continue its present policy over foreign exchange and that the current exchange rate between the dinar and the dollar "is appropriate, given Jordan's competitiveness" in export markets.

Mr. Jardaneh said a recent study conducted by the IMF had shown that "real GDP (Gross Domestic Product) is projected to grow by 6.2 per cent in 1995."

The study also found that inflation will be less than four per cent and the external current account adjustment is expected to exceed the target for the year.

"Specifically, following a sharp reduction (to 6.5 per cent of GDP) in 1994, the



Basel Jardaneh

external current account deficit is now projected to decline further to five per cent of GDP in 1995," compared with an earlier projection of eight per cent. Mr. Jardaneh told the first working session of the congress after opening it.

Budget deficit — excluding grants — will be brought down to 4.6 per cent in 1995 although the original target was 4.3 per cent, he said, adding that the projected figure "represents a substantial fiscal tightening effort."

In his paper, entitled "Jordan, Performance and Future Outlook," the finance minister reviewed the features of the Jordanian economy, the trouble the Kingdom faced in the late 1980s when the foreign debt burden was too heavy, and the impact of the Gulf crisis.

"The economy was able to overcome all these difficulties," said, Mr. Jardaneh.

"The Jordanian dinar has maintained in the last five years its relative stability (about \$1.4 to JD1). Jordan's external debt has declined sharply in absolute terms as well as a percentage of GDP."

"The deficit of the balance of payments as a percentage of GDP decreased sharply and finally the government's performance with regard to the reduction of the budget deficit has been remarkable."

Mr. Jardaneh said Jordan had a disbursed foreign debt of \$6.625 billion, or 128.1 per cent of GDP, in 1992 and the amount was brought down to \$6.008 billion, or 110.5 per cent of GDP, in 1993, and \$5.567 billion, or 92.7 per cent of GDP, in 1994.

"Jordan has normalised its relations with its commercial and official creditors," said Mr. Jardaneh, pointing out the rescheduling arrangements the Kingdom has made with the Paris Club of creditor governments and the London Club of commercial banks and financial institutions.

The finance minister noted that Jordan had so far received debt reduction of \$835 million from creditor governments.

According to Mr. Jardaneh, Jordan's annual loss as a result of its adherence to the sanctions against Iraq is about \$350 million.

Pointing out that the government remained to be the largest employer in the country and government expenditure accounted for 36 per

(Continued on page 7)

Mubarak: Chances good for Syria-Israel peace deal

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak said Saturday that the chances were good for Israel and Syria to reach a peace agreement following the Palestinian autonomy accord signed in Washington.

His comments came despite pessimism expressed by both Israel and Syria on the chances of a breakthrough. "I hope that the Syrians could start the negotiations again, because there is a good chance to reach a good agreement," Mr. Mubarak said in a television interview with the U.S.-based Cable News Network (CNN).

"We are trying to help, the U.S. are trying to help and we hope the negotiations

could start again," Mr. Mubarak said.

He also spoke of the impact of legislative elections due in Israel in November 1996 on the peace process.

The ruling Labour Party is running neck-and-neck in opinion polls with the right-wing Likud Party, which is hostile to the accords signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and opposes any withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"We should not make a kind of pressure on the Syrians, saying that the (Israeli) elections are coming," Mr. Mubarak said.

But even if the Likud did win the elections, the Egyptian

president added: "I can say that since the Israelis sign an accord, they respect their signature. We signed an agreement with the Likud under President (Anwar) Sadat and it was implemented."

Mr. Mubarak reaffirmed that the stumbling blocks to an Israeli-Syrian peace accord were the placement of early-warning stations on the Golan as demanded by the Jewish state and the creation of demilitarised zones.

Syria said Friday it was in "no hurry" to make peace with the Jewish state, and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said he was "not confident" there would be a deal.

Brotherhood says it averted repeat of Algeria in Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — The Muslim Brotherhood said it has kept Egypt from turning into an Afghanistan or Algeria despite Cairo's accusations that the banned group backs Muslim militants, an Arab paper quoted its spokesman saying on Saturday.

Brotherhood leaders "regulate the activity of the group's youth and forbid them in resort to violence or destruction," the Brotherhood spokesman in London Kamal Al Halabawi, was quoted as saying by Al Sharq Al Awsat.

The Brotherhood did this "so that the situation does not reach a crisis as it has in Afghanistan and Algeria," Mr. Halabawi said.

A military court was to resume on Saturday the trial of 49 Brotherhood members charged with "directing an illegal organisation aiming to impede the rule of law and constitution."

Mr. Halabawi said Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak ordered the Brothers put before a military tribunal "to get a judgement they couldn't have received in civilian courts."

Mr. Mubarak ordered them tried before a military tribunal which usually considers cases connected to militant unrest, even though none of the 49 are accused of planning "terrorism" or "violence."

Mr. Halabawi said the trial would not prevent the group from fielding candidates in parliamentary elections set for November.

"The Brotherhood is determined to participate in the elections even if it has no permission to form a political party."

His aim is not to take power so much as to see the

goals it calls for realised. We support any party that backs these goals. We have supported President Mubarak and the (ruling) party" in several issues, he said.

Brotherhood candidates would run as independents or with other parties on a platform of "developing democracy in Egypt, achieving stability and security, planning economic reform and fighting corruption and drugs," he said.

Banned in 1954, the fundamentalist group has been tolerated since the mid-1970s when it said it renounced violence in its bid to implement Islamic Sharia law in Egypt.

In the early 1990s it scored large successes in syndicate elections and now has control of Egypt's medical, engineering and lawyers' unions.

But Mr. Mubarak accused the Muslim Brotherhood in 1994 of "being behind" attacks by Islamic militants in Egypt and since a wave of arrests of Brotherhood members has followed.

In a letter to Mr. Mubarak on Friday, the New York-based Human Rights Watch urged him "to suspend immediately the practice of trying civilians in military courts."

A group of four British barristers, including former deputy John Platts-Mills, were to attend Saturday's session of the trial, which began Sept. 16, to help the defence.

The four were expected to ask the court's permission to formally join the defence team, which was already approaching 60 members coming from the entire political spectrum, including leftists and three Christian lawyers.

Ciller vows to continue coalition endeavour

ANKARA (R) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller vowed on Saturday to complete her government search soon, but fell short on committing to early general polls or forming a minority government to replace her collapsed coalition.

"We are going to keep going with this business," she told reporters. "We will not leave this country without a government — you will see in the coming days."

A spokesman from Ms. Ciller's True Path Party (DYP) said earlier Ciller was likely to make an announcement on a new government.

Ms. Ciller did not mention early elections, and questions on the subject to other party officials were unanswered.

A senior DYP official said earlier Ciller was considering putting forward general polls after her failure to form a government to replace her right-left coalition that folded 10 days ago when Ms. Ciller resigned over a dispute with the new chief of her social-democrat partners.

"If the barriers before Turkey's progress will be removed with the DYP going for elections, then we are ready for elections," Yasar Dedelek, a DYP deputy chairman, was quoted by the semi-official Anatolian news agency as saying.

He said elections may not be ready from a technical point of view for the December date demanded by the opposition, but could be held in the spring.

Ms. Ciller has been loath to hold polls ahead of schedule in October 1996.



STRANDED: Expelled Palestinian women sit in a desert no-man's land between Egypt and Libya (above) and children run for water from tents erected by the Libyan government for expelled Palestinians. Two hundred and eighty Palestinians expelled by Libya are now stuck at the border, with hundreds more expected (see page one) (AFP photos)



France links killed suspect to metro bombing, Algerian sheikh's murder

LYON (Agencies) — The interior minister on Saturday linked Khaled Kelkal, France's most wanted man killed by police less than 24 hours earlier, to the bloody Paris metro bombing, the assassination of a Muslim holy man and other terrorist incidents.

Jean-Louis Debre said he had the "feeling, so as not to say more" that Kelkal and an accomplice took part in the July 25 rush hour bombing of a subway in the Latin quarter that killed seven people.

The attack was the first in a series of six bombings and attempted bombings that have plagued France since, putting the nation on high security alert. More than 100 people have been injured.

Investigators are suspect that militants engaged in an insurgency in Algeria are behind the bombings.

Kelkal, a 24-year-old Algerian,

was shot and killed in a confrontation with paratroopers and police moving in on him Friday night at a bus stop on a country road outside Lyon.

"Gendarmes cried 'stop your fire,'" said state prosecutor of Lyon Jean-Amedee Lathoud. Kelkal continued firing and was shot dead in "legitimate self-defence."

The killing, shown on French TV Saturday, ended one of the biggest manhunts in recent memory in France. Kelkal's fingerprints were found on adhesive tape connecting a bomb to a detonator, placed on a high-speed train line outside Lyon on Aug. 26.

Mr. Debre's accusations were the first to link Kelkal with other attacks.

Mr. Debre said that an accomplice, Karim Koussa, wounded Wednesday in a gunfight with police at a



Jean-Louis Debre

forest hideout where Kelkal also had stayed, likely took part in the subway attack.

The minister said there was a "very great similitude" be-

tween detonating and timing systems of bombs in the failed fast train bomb attack, a bomb found in a public toilet in southern Paris and an "identical system" found in the forest hideout.

"I now have the feeling, so as not to say more, that the same team took part."

Mr. Debre said Kelkal and Koussa also were involved in the July 11 killing of Imam Abdul Kader Sahraoui in his Paris mosque. Sahraoui was a co-founder of the Islamic Salvation Front, Algeria's banned Muslim fundamentalist movement.

"I can tell you that Karim Koussa is one of the accomplices of Khaled Kelkal in the attack of Imam Sahraoui," Mr. Debre told a news conference.

It was the first time authorities have formally linked the

(Continued on page 7)

U.S. asserts China-Iran nuclear deal called off, but Qian says otherwise

WASHINGTON (AP) — Efforts by U.S. and Chinese officials to arrange a summit between their two presidents became ensnared in semantics Friday in a disagreement over whether China is still trying to sell nuclear reactors to Iran.

The Clinton administration claimed the Beijing government had "terminated" plans to sell two nuclear power reactors to Iran, but China's foreign minister said the deal has only been "suspended for the time being."

The State Department, in a statement issued by spokesman Nicholas Burns, rejected assertions by Iran on Thursday that the deal for two electric power reactors was still on.

"We clearly understand China will not cooperate now in providing nuclear reactors to Iran, and we're very glad," Mr. Burns said.

But Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen called reports that the deal had been cancelled an overstatement.

In response to a question after a speech to the U.S. Foreign Policy Association in New York, Mr. Qian said the deal had been "suspended for the time being" because Iran wanted to put the reactors on inappropriate

sites. He did not elaborate on what was wrong with the sites.

The disagreement is a sticking point in talks now under way that the United States hopes will lead to a summit meeting between President Bill Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin.

The Chinese have denied having any nuclear agreement with Iran that goes against international agreements. Previously, China only noted that it has not sold nuclear reactors or power stations to Iran in the past.

U.S. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, had told reporters earlier this week the Chinese-Iranian reactor deal was off after a meeting Monday in New York between Mr. Qian and Secretary of State Warren Christopher.

"Foreign Minister Qian said very clearly and unequivocally to Secretary Christopher that the prospect, the plans for Chinese nuclear cooperation with Iran had been terminated, which was the word used," Mr. Burns said.

He said it was understandable that Iranian officials were denying the report, but "I think they're mistaken about the facts."

3 dead while Algerian arrested, Yemen reports

SANAA (Agencies) —

Three people were killed and six wounded in a clash when security forces in Yemen arrested an Algerian teacher for creating "sectarian differences," Yemen's Interior Minister Hussein Mohammad Arab has said.

He told the official news agency SABA late on Friday that the Algerian, Adem Salehaddin, and some of his companions were arrested in Daeia, about 100 kilometres north of Aden, and taken to Sanaa for questioning.

The minister said two security force members and one of Mr. Salehaddin's men were killed during the arrest. Five security men and one other man were wounded, he said.

A security source in Aden said there had been an exchange of gunfire.

The minister said Mr. Salehaddin was "trying to foment sectarian differences which do not conform with the constitution and the law... the ministry had previously requested him to go to Sanaa but he refused."

Travellers from Daeia on Friday had spoken of four dead in the fight between government forces and a group headed by the Algerian. They said the group had attacked a wedding party which they opposed as un-

Islamic.

The clash started on Thursday and ended at mid-day on Friday.

About eight people were injured earlier this month when a grenade exploded at a wedding in Aden, South Yemen's capital before it merged with North Yemen in 1990.

Officials said Mr. Salehaddin, who had terrorised people and had even threatened women with the death penalty if they went out in public.

People said the preacher and about 30 bearded disciples armed with submachine guns and grenades had declared a jihad (holy war) on the heresies in Islam.

They then beat up the owner of a hairdressers in the town before attacking a group of policemen sent to bring them under control, the witnesses said.

The fundamentalists fired at a military vehicle and then took refuge in some houses and a mosque. The army's 35th brigade had to use armoured vehicles and rocket-propelled grenades to flush them out, the witnesses said.

The preacher, also known as Abu Abdul Rahman, and his followers are reported to have been involved in a number of incidents in recent weeks.

Neurologist: Hitler had Parkinson's disease

STUTTGART, Germany (AP) — Adolf Hitler's shaky hands and dismal appearance in his final days were at least partly due to Parkinson's disease, a new study asserts.

Hitler looked like a broken man in the days before he killed himself in his Berlin bunker on April 30, 1945. One of his generals later wrote that Hitler's hands trembled, he walked with a stoop and his eyes glowed. Ellen Gibbels, a Cologne neurologist and psychiatrist, examined Third Reich documentaries of Hitler that were provided by the federal archives, and has concluded that he suffered from Parkinson's disease since 1941. The Stuttgart monthly magazine "Kosmos" reported on Dr. Gibbels' theory in its latest issue. But there are other theories as well.

Historians have said a 1994 assassination attempt that nearly killed Hitler, his addiction to drugs and the stresses of war contributed to his ill health. Hitler lived without fresh air or exercise in underground bunkers, historian William L. Shirer wrote in "The Rise and Fall Of The Third Reich." He wrote that Hitler suffered more frequent hysterical rages as the war drew to a close, and his emotional fits were accompanied by trembling hands and feet. Shirer also wrote that Hitler suffered from dizziness after the July 1944 bombing that shattered the tympanic membranes of his ears.

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"The economy was able to overcome all these difficulties," said, Mr. Jardaneh.

"I can say that since the Israelis sign an accord, they respect their signature. We signed an agreement with the Likud under President (Anwar) Sadat and it was implemented."

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